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Rent break offered to Flames is costing local sports groups

Past. City granted NHL team a similar reduction in Saddledome fees during the 2004-05 lockout: Alderman

Local amateur-sports groups stand to lose \$765,000 in funding from the Calgary Flames if the NHL season is cancelled, Metro has learned.

Even if the season is salvaged, the Flames will be required to contribute hundreds of thousands of dollars less than normal to the Saddledome Foundation — which in turn distributes the money to sports groups — after city council agreed to grant the hockey club's request for a "partial rental-fee reduction," according to a report obtained by Metro.

The move was narrowly approved by an 8-7 vote behind closed doors in a council meeting on Nov. 5. "I don't think anybody was happy about doing it," said Ald. Ray Jones, who voted in favour of the fee reduction.

Jones said his vote was influenced by the fact that the three groups that receive the funding — WinSport Canada, Hockey Canada, and Parks Foundation Calgary — supported the Flames' request to reduce the annual allocation.

Parks Foundation CEO Myrna Dube said the Flames' request was "understandable" given the lockout situation and said the funding program is still "very generous."

Crowfoot Minor Hockey Association president Darren

Reduced rent

- **In light of lockout.** Under an agreement with the city-owned Saddledome, the Calgary Flames were to pay \$1.51 million in "indexed rent" to the Saddledome Foundation this year. That has now been reduced to \$750,000 in "base rent," in light of the lockout.

Dean said "it's quite a shame" that a dispute between NHL owners and "overpaid employees" has led to any funding reduction.

Many local arenas rely on outside grants for capital improvements and would not survive without them, he said, pointing to the closure of the ice at the Brentwood Sportsplex Centre earlier this year due to a mechanical failure as just one example.

"There's a lot of talk about how this (lockout) impacts the fans, but there's not a lot of talk about how this impacts minor hockey at all levels," Dean said.

Ald. Jim Stevenson said he voted against the Flames' request because he "just didn't feel it was right."

"Regardless of what their situation was, if there was a commitment to donate this money to the charities then they should still carry on and do that," he said.

Calgary Flames vice-president of communications Peter Hanlon said the club has no comment on the matter.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO



As part of the Calgary Flames' agreement with the City of Calgary, which owns the Saddledome, the team pays an annual fee for use of the facility, and that money is directed towards amateur sport. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

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SSC tender. Soccer federation will bid to run centre again

The Calgary Soccer Federation (CSF) intends to bid for another lease to run the city's largest soccer centre, federation executives told parents and member associations on Tuesday night.

In addition, federation president Angus Smith said paperwork will be finalized on Wednesday to allow the group to continue operating the Subway Soccer Centre until April.

"Our goal is really to try to keep soccer affordable, safe and family friendly," Smith said.

In a private meeting on Nov. 19, city council voted not to renew a 25-year lease with the federation to operate the four-field centre.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi said last week that the federation is struggling with "organizational challenges" but added it can bid alongside others to continue running the centre.

Smith and other federation executive members fielded questions from parents and member associations. They said they have been given few details about aldermen's concerns.

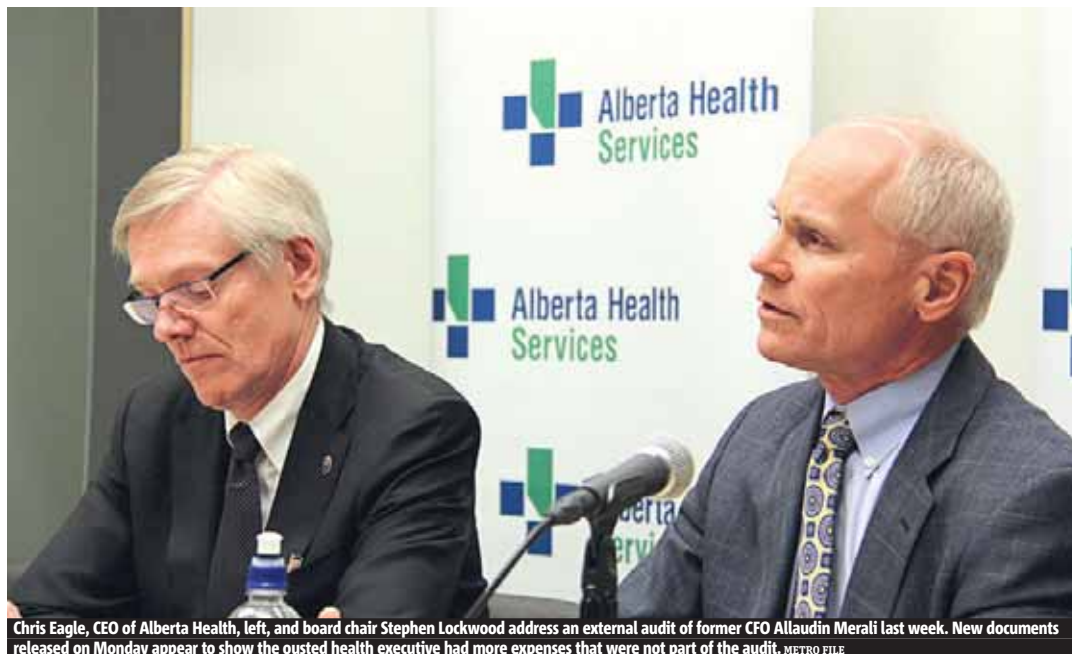
While the federation intends to bid, Smith said none of the details of what will be required in a proposal have been made public.

As CSF operates as a non-profit, Smith said he fears a for-profit operator could raise field-rental rates and centre-admission costs.

Parent Janice Walker said she was pleased to learn of the bid and to get the federation's perspective.

"There are two sides to every story," she added.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO



Chris Eagle, CEO of Alberta Health, left, and board chair Stephen Lockwood address an external audit of former CFO Allaudin Merali last week. New documents released on Monday appear to show the ousted health executive had more expenses that were not part of the audit. METRO FILE

More Merali expense claims come to light

FOIP request. AHS releases claims for \$57,000 in previously unreported expenses

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Former Alberta Health CFO Allaudin Merali racked up tens of thousands of dollars in previously undisclosed expenses, new records released on Monday reveal.

Documents posted on the AHS website show that the previously reported \$346,000 in expenses that Merali claimed during his time as the chief financial officer of Capital Health was not the

whole picture.

The total revealed during an external audit conducted last week was in fact nearly \$368,000, but the audit also revealed that in its initial response to freedom-of-information requests, the government released documents supporting only \$311,000 in expenses.

The new documents cover that gap, accounting for about \$57,000 in previously undisclosed expenses.

The new expenses include \$380 at Edmonton's Copper Pot Restaurant in July 2005, \$520 at Characters Restaurant in Edmonton on Aug. 10, 2005, and \$358 at Normand's Restaurant in Edmonton the next night.

A \$1,800 expense for the Mayfair Golf and Country

Audit

- The audit released last week found that about half of Allaudin Merali's expenses were within government guidelines.
- In a statement released last week, Merali said he stands by his expense claims and believes the focus on his expenses has taken away from his accomplishments.

Club released in the last freedom-of-information request is explained in greater detail in the new documents as a golf-club membership.

There were also expenses for flowers and groceries, ap-

parently for dinners hosted at his home.

Wildrose Leader Danielle Smith said it shows the need for a more thorough look at expenses.

"We need to see all of the expenses for all of the health regions, and then if we find others where we have a similar problem, we need to call in the auditors again," she said.

An AHS spokesperson said there are more stringent standards in place today.

But Smith said the money adds up when it could have been spent on patients.

"These are not trivial dollars when they are spent on something you can get value for."

WITH FILES FROM JEREMY NOLAIS, KATIE TURNER AND ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

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Lesbian minister couple believed a Canadian first

Leadership. Calgary's Living Spirit United Church bucks trend of aging membership, financial struggle



JEREMY NOLAÏS
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Nearly four years ago, when a lesbian couple applied to be co-ministers of Calgary's Living Spirit United Church, the congregation was not exactly supportive.

"They drafted a petition," said Jennifer Ferguson. "I am thinking, 'Wait a second, you haven't even heard me preach.'"

She and her partner, Traci Hubbard, each have 25 years of ministerial experience.

At the time, the southwest Calgary church maintained a Sunday crowd of roughly 60 people, and Hubbard estimated the average member was 70 years old.

The couple did convince the congregation to at least hear them out, delivering a sermon and then hosting a number of meetings at their home to discuss intentions for the church, which, like many others in the city, was struggling financially and facing the harsh reality of an aging membership.

"Everything was on the table," Hubbard said. "We had our kids here and everything."

Once accepted, Ferguson and Hubbard likely became the first — and only — gay couple in Canada to work as ministers in the same church, and, as it would turn out, their relationship actually worked in the congregation's favour. Nowadays, the church draws twice as many people and 10 times as many youngsters.

"What we found is people



Traci Hubbard, left, and partner Jennifer Ferguson were married in front of a Christmas tree nearly five years ago. The Calgary pair are believed to be the first gay couple in Canada to be ministers in the same church. JEREMY NOLAÏS/METRO

go on the Internet, see that we're a couple, and that's where they want to bring their kids," Ferguson said.

The ministers even seem to have made an impression on the longest-serving members of the church as well.

"They have been an absolute blessing," said Hans de Boer, the church treasurer. "They actually seem to care about your problems — we couldn't ask for anything better."

Open doors, open minds

A novel take on church ceremony

Acceptance of diversity at Living Spirit extends well beyond the ministers, members are quick to point out.

Ferguson actively encourages those practising other religions to speak during Sunday services, and both she and Hubbard include pop-culture references and themes into their sermons. For example, the church will rely on Harry Potter for part of its Christmas Eve service,

with members working to find the manger in Hogwarts.

Early on, Hubbard even worked a colourful joke involving Jesus and South Park character Cartman into one of her sermons.

"I got called in for that — they weren't used to me yet," she said with a laugh. **METRO**

Skepticism. U of C prez racks up \$68,000 travel bill

Jet-setting to places around the globe has led University of Calgary president Elizabeth Cannon to tally tens of thousands in travel expenses this year, documents released Tuesday indicate.

In all, Cannon's bills to the end of September total approximately \$68,000 and include conference trips and other endeavours to various locations in Brazil as well as European destinations in Berlin and Salzburg, Austria.

Bonnie DuPont, the university board of governors interim chair, found no issue with the expenses and pointed out the institution has raised \$228.6 million since Cannon took over as president in July 2010.

"I would say that it's absolutely critical in a city such as Calgary — a global player — that we as a university should have a global reach," she said.

The release of Cannon's expenses comes in response to a freedom-of-information request made by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, and the organization's Alberta director was quick to raise questions about the frequency and nature of certain trips: namely, a 10-day stint in China that cost nearly \$12,800.

"I have a hard time believing that was 10 days full of work," Derek Fildebrandt said, before adding, "We want to ensure that none of these trips were just excuses for a junket, which they quite often are."

An explanation provided for the China trip indicates Cannon met with alumni, embassy staff and students studying abroad on work terms during time in Beijing, Hong Kong and Shantou. She also signed a memorandum of understanding with Tsinghua University. **JEREMY NOLAÏS/METRO/**
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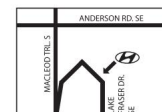
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Graduating (with honours) from the Santa School

Ho! Ho! Ho! In Day 10 of Metro's 12 Days of Christmas, Metro reporter Katie Turner explores what it takes to be the jolly elf



KATIE TURNER

katie.turner@metronews.ca

It's an extreme makeover, Santa edition.

In an effort to understand what it truly takes to be the man in crushed velvet, I decided to take an intro class with the dean of Calgary's very own Santa School, Jennifer Andrews.

As a self-proclaimed Christmas enthusiast, Andrews, who has operated the school for four seasons, was able to provide several tricks of the trade.

Being a 20-something female and lacking the full-fledged Santa belly (though

holiday treats have me well on my way), I was already at a bit of a disadvantage in the overall look of Kris Kringle.

However, aside from a real snowy white beard, Andrews said character development is one of the most crucial components.

"Obviously, first and foremost, it has to come from his heart," said Andrews. "We want him to be as much like Santa as he can possibly be so that they can bring happiness and joy to kids of all sizes."

And with that, it was time to get in a jolly frame of mind.

As soon as the faux beard and wig went on, it started to come together. Slipping on the red cloak, pulling up the hood, I began to feel the warmth of the Christmas spirit (or maybe that was the beads of sweat underneath the costume).

The final touch: one hand full of sleigh bells, the other on my stomach and a full-belly "Ho! Ho! Ho!" and the look was complete. I may not have

Training

- **Online.** To watch Katie's transformation on video, visit the Features section of metronews.ca.
- **Founder.** Victor Nevada, who lost his battle with cancer in 2009, founded the Santa School several years ago.
- **Demand.** Andrews said instead of holding one class this year, the Santa School hosted four classes due to demand.
- **Curriculum.** The school involves everything from voice training to character development and assistance with hair, beard and costume.

spread joy around the world but I certainly gave myself a chuckle.

Santa makeover? Complete.



Metro Calgary's Katie Turner gets into the holiday spirit by getting the full Santa makeover.

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The Moviedome will shut its doors for good this Thursday, the owner has confirmed, leaving many film buffs who appreciated the deal offered on flicks at the northeast venue looking for new silver screens. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Moviedome will close for good Thursday: Owner

Film scene. Loss of Calgary's largest discount theatre a shame, according to frequent visitors



JEREMY NOLAIS
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Thrifty film buffs in Calgary will have to turn elsewhere it seems, as Metro has learned the city's largest discount theatre will close its doors for good Thursday.

Moviedome, located at 999 36th Street N.E., has long provided cheaper rates — \$3 in the afternoons and \$5 in the evenings — for relatively new blockbusters as well as a sampling of Bollywood flicks.

But owner Reshma Dadani confirmed the nine-screen theatre will close Thursday and no one is waiting on deck to take over operations.

Dadani requested, however, that details surrounding the closure be kept private.

"It's a decision that was made," she said.

Word of the closure has saddened area residents who say they cannot afford the standard \$13 admission charged by major theatre chains operating in the city.

Noreen Branagh, program co-ordinator at the Rehabilitation Society of Calgary, said many of her special-needs members include a trip to Moviedome in their weekly routines.

"It's a shame, a real shame," she said of the closure.

Jason Pickering, who usually takes in a movie each week at the venue, worries that as more and more independent theatres in Calgary close their doors, typical moviegoers will opt to stay home.

The independent Uptown Stage and Screen closed in August and operators of both the

Where to find cheap flicks

- The lone remaining discount movie theatre in Calgary is Canyon Meadows Cinemas, located at 13226 Macleod Trail South. Catching a flick there will cost you \$5.
- Cineplex Odeon's Eau Claire Market Cinemas also offers a slightly reduced \$11.25 rate for general admission.

Globe Cinema and the Plaza Theatre have admitted struggles associated with the shift to digital film technology and rise in Internet movie piracy.

"At the major theatres, when you throw in snacks, it becomes a \$30 night," Pickering said. "The good old family nights are getting taken over by corporations making tons of money."



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Stuck on scandal. Smith, Redford spar over focus on past mistakes

Premier Alison Redford would like the Opposition to add more substance to the debate. But Wildrose Leader Danielle Smith argues they are — and if Redford wants less focus on government scandals, she should stop having them.

In a year-end interview, Redford charged that the Wildrose are only criticizing her government for past scandals without offering any substance of their own.

"At the beginning of this session, the Opposition said it is not enough to criticize, we have to put forward constructive approaches to policy," Redford said. "They should read their own press releases. They haven't done that."

Smith said the vast majority of the Wildrose's question have been about policy, but also said that if Redford wants to hear less about ethical scandals it's within her own power.

"She is just particularly thin-skinned when it comes to the ethical issues of her government, and if she wants us to stop having questions about ethical scandals she should stop having ethical scandals," said Smith.

Redford said she isn't

Year-end interviews



"If she wants us to stop having questions about ethical scandals she should stop having ethical scandals."

Wildrose Leader Danielle Smith on Premier Alison Redford's suggestion the opposition focus more on policy

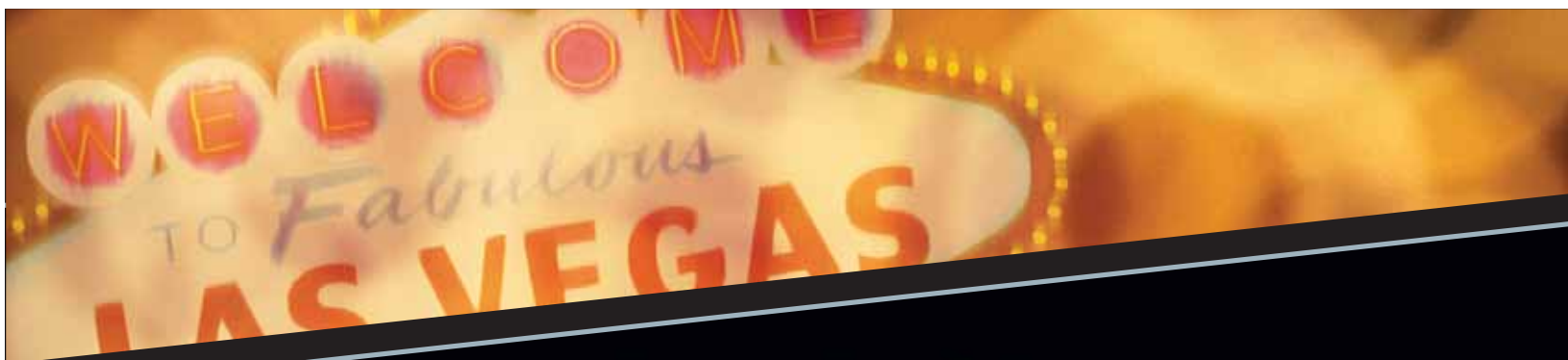
surprised the Opposition have taken the tack they have and she doesn't expect change.

"I expect more from the Opposition — and I don't mean that facetiously. I think they are going to continue along this path."

Smith said her party is focused on improving government legislation and proposing new ideas, but they won't let go of the ethical lapses.

"We don't take no for an answer, we don't take their brush-offs and their snarky comments as an answer."

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO



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Republicans open up to gun debate

Taking the first step.

Gun manufacturers see shares continue to drop as politicians on both sides of the aisle shift stances following Friday's shooting

Some Republicans now say they're willing to discuss the politically treacherous issue of gun control, along with mental health issues and violent video games, while President Barack Obama said he supports efforts in Congress to reinstate an assault weapons ban in the wake of last week's Connecticut school shooting.

The massacre, one of the worst mass shootings in U.S. history, has rattled the usual national dialogue on guns in America, where public opinion had shifted against tougher gun control in recent years, and the gun lobby is a powerful political force.

Obama has long supported reinstating the assault weapons ban, which expired in 2004, but was quiet on the issue during his first term. He has said he believes the Constitution's Second Amendment guarantees an individual the right to bear arms.

The president was not expected to take any formal action on guns before the end of the year, given the all-consuming efforts to resolve



Susan Sheperd wipes a tear as she stands with friends and co-workers at the funeral procession for James Mattioli, 6, who died in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings, approaches the St. John's Cemetery Tuesday in Darien, Conn. Funerals were held for Mattioli and Jessica Rekos, 6, who were among the 26 people killed when Adam Lanza walked into Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown on Dec. 14 and opened fire. CRAIG RUTTLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

tax and deficit-reduction talks and nominate new Cabinet secretaries.

The most powerful supporter of gun owners, the National Rifle Association, broke its silence Tuesday. After a self-imposed media blackout that

left many wondering how it would respond to the killings, it said in a statement that its members were "shocked, saddened and heartbroken by the news of the horrific and senseless murders."

The group also said it wanted to give families time to mourn before making its first public statements. The organization pledged "to help to make sure this never happens again" and has scheduled a news conference for Friday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

A complicated issue

"Put guns on the table ... put video games on the table, put mental health on the table."

Republican Congressman Jack Kingston

Quebec. Slain teacher's relatives call American gun laws 'revolting'

The Newtown school massacre has left grieving Canadian relatives of one murdered teacher denouncing American gun laws.

Several of the Rousseau family in Quebec's Eastern Townships will be going down to Connecticut for the funeral of Lauren Rousseau, a substitute teacher whose father was born in Quebec.

"It's revolting how easy it is to obtain firearms — that's what's so infuriating," said the victim's uncle, Francois Rousseau. He and several relatives will be heading down for the funeral of his brother's daughter.

Lauren Rousseau, 30, was

Mourning uncle

"The only thing I can express is revulsion."

Francois Rousseau

born in the U.S. Her Canadian-born father, Gilles Rousseau, told Radio-Canada that he wanted to see his daughter's body but was informed by authorities that it would not be possible.

In a tearful interview, he said the rounds used were so powerful that they left several holes in his daughter's car outside in the parking lot.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Colorado. Woman shot while on phone with police

Four people were found dead Tuesday in Colorado after a woman called police to report a shooting and was apparently shot to death while she was on the phone.

Weld County sheriff's spokesman Tim Schwartz says dispatchers heard the woman who called 911 scream "No, no, no," and then they heard a gunshot. Schwartz says a man grabbed the phone and said he

was going to kill himself, and dispatchers heard another shot.

The bodies were found in a home in a subdivision east of Longmont, north of Denver.

The dead included two men and two women, including one who appeared to be in her late teens or early 20s.

Schwartz says investigators have a possible motive for the shootings, but he refused to release details. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Bushmaster rifles

Firearms maker put up for sale

The largest firearms maker in the United States said Tuesday it is being put up for sale by its owner, which called last week's school shooting a "watershed event" in the national debate over gun control. Freedom Group International makes Bushmaster rifles, the weapon thought to have been used in Friday's killings. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

'Defending himself'

Student, 11, brings gun to school

Authorities say an 11-year-old boy caught with a gun at school in Utah told administrators he brought the weapon to defend himself in case of an attack similar to the mass shooting last week at a Connecticut elementary school. School officials say the boy has been arrested. No one was injured.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

National poll

A Washington Post/ABC News poll conducted over the weekend showed 54 per cent in the U.S. favour tougher laws, about the same as the 51 per cent in favour earlier in the year. Seven in 10 are opposed to banning the sale of handguns to anyone except law enforcement officers, the highest percentage since 1999.

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Rukhsana Bibi, right, mourns for her daughter at a hospital in Karachi, Pakistan, Tuesday. Gunmen killed polio worker Madiha Bibi and several other people working on a government polio vaccination campaign in two different Pakistani cities on Tuesday, officials said. The attacks were likely an attempt by the Taliban to counter an initiative the militant group has long opposed. **FAREED KHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

5 women working on polio campaign killed in Pakistan

Suspects. Taliban, a Pashtun-dominated movement, suspected as shootings in Karachi all took place in areas populated by Pashtuns

Gunmen shot dead five women working on UN-backed polio vaccination efforts in two different Pakistani cities on Tuesday, officials said, a major setback for a campaign that international health officials consider vital to contain the crippling disease but which Taliban insurgents say is a cover for espionage.

Pakistan is one of only three countries where polio is endemic. But militants accuse health workers of acting as spies for the U.S. and claim the vaccine makes children sterile.

Taliban commanders in the troubled northwest tribal

region have also said vaccinations can't go forward until the U.S. stops drone strikes in the country.

Insurgent opposition to the campaign grew last year after it was revealed that a Pakistani doctor ran a fake vaccination program to help the CIA track down al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden, who was hiding in the town of Abbottabad in the country's northwest.

Rukhsana Bibi, whose 18-year-old daughter Madiha was killed in Karachi, seemed to blame the organizers of the vaccination campaign for her death. "Why are you doing this by coming here?" said Bibi, standing next to her daughter's body at the hospital. "This is a prohibited area. Taliban are here."

Madiha was the only source of income for the family, which includes seven other children, said Bibi, whose husband is too sick to work. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Attacks

The women, three of whom were teenagers, were shot in the head at close range.

- Four of them were gunned down in the southern port city of Karachi, and the fifth in a village outside the northwest city of Peshawar.
- The attacks in Karachi occurred within 15 minutes in three different areas of the city that are far apart. In each case, the gunmen used 9 millimeter pistols.
- Two of the women were killed while they were in a house in Karachi giving children polio drops. The other two were travelling between houses when they were attacked.

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Sex slurs spark school riot

Anonymous posting on Instagram.

Mounted police move in as anger explodes after teenage girls are called 'sluts' and 'whores'

ARON ANDERSSON

Metro World News in Sweden

An anonymous Instagram account that posted images of teenage girls and called them "sluts" and "whores" has sparked riots outside a Swedish high school.

The account showed more than 200 images of teens reportedly as young as 13.

It contained details of alleged sexual activity.

Hundreds of teens gathered outside Plusgymnasiet high school in Gothenburg where the alleged owner of the account is believed to attend.

Police, some on horseback, went to the school as students threw objects and jumped on cars, witnesses said.

YouTube footage shows a



The scene outside a school in Sweden where a riot erupted after an Instagram account called teenage girls "sluts" and "whores." HENRIK BRUNNNGARD/METRO SWEDEN

large group scuffling.

At the high school, one girl was hit in the face while another was attacked and kicked by four girls, a witness told Metro.

"The teachers cried out and there was a panic on the whole school. It was so

sick," said 17-year-old student Janina Niemi, who was in the canteen when the fracas began.

"I saw one girl being kicked in the head. She was on the ground—there were four against one."

Some 27 people were ar-

rested. A 17-year-old girl has been taken into custody. The girl is suspected of having started the Instagram account.

The aftermath: The Instagram account was shut down but then migrated to Facebook.

Quoted

"It is completely unacceptable to say things like this about people."

Kirsi Niemi,
mother of student Janina Niemi

Landmark study

3,000 Saudis say: Let our women drive

Is a ban on Saudi women driving destined to disappear? That could be the outcome if a landmark study helps sway the Muslim kingdom's leaders.

A Saudi online newspaper says more than 3,000 nationals of the kingdom have endorsed a study that recommends lifting a ban on women driving.

The list of backers includes prominent writers and academics.

Sabaq quoted on Tuesday Abdullah al-Alami, a researcher who contributed to the study, as saying it was sent to King Abdullah's main advisory body, the Shura Council, asking it to set a date to discuss it.

Key religious leaders in the ultra-conservative kingdom want to keep the practice of not letting women drive.

But some religious scholars have backed a movement to encourage the king to change the laws. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Student dies after hazing ritual's booze-filled night

A vodka ceremony.

Nearly two-dozen frat members face charges — and they could also be expelled from university

Nearly two dozen fraternity members at a U.S. university face hazing-related charges after a night of drinking ended in tragedy.

David Bogenberger, 19, was found unresponsive at a fraternity house at Northern Illinois University on Nov. 2.

His blood-alcohol level was about five times the legal limit for driving, the DeKalb County Coroner's Office said.

The coroner ruled Bogenberger's cause of death was cardiac arrhythmia, with alcohol intoxication as a contributing cause.

The DeKalb Police Depart-

Quoted

"We have no desire for revenge. Rather, we hope that some significant change will come from David's death."

Statement by the family of David Bogenberger

ment said its investigation found the fraternity hosted an unsanctioned event that wasn't registered with the university or the fraternity's national chapter.

"The event that night involved the pledges (freshmen) rotating between several rooms in the fraternity house, being asked a series of questions, and then being provided cups of vodka and other liquor to drink," police said.

"This resulted in the pledges drinking a large

quantity of alcohol in about a two-hour time period."

Police said several other pledges reported getting sick and passing out due to excessive alcohol consumption.

Bogenberger's family said they appreciate law enforcement professionals who investigated David Bogenberger's death and "seek accountability for a horrible event."

"Alcohol poisoning claims far too many young, healthy lives," the family's statement said.

Five members of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity are charged with felony hazing, while 17 members face misdemeanor hazing charges.

In addition to the charges, the university said 31 students are accused of violating the school's code of conduct. Those students could face penalties ranging from reprimand to expulsion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Daring cons flee jail by sliding down 20 storeys

Crime-scene tape surrounds a highrise federal jail in Chicago on Tuesday after a daring escape by two convicted bank robbers. Their path to freedom? The makeshift rope shown on the right. They busted away concrete to enlarge a window, climbed out onto the rope and clambered down ... about 20 storeys!

PHOTOS BY SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES



Miss USA contestant

Beauty queen has to pay \$5M

A beauty queen who claimed this year's Miss USA contest was fixed has been ordered to pay the pageant \$5 million for defamation.

An arbitrator said the comments from Miss Pennsylvania USA Sheena Monnin were false, harmful and malicious.

Monnin had alleged the five finalists had been selected in advance of the pageant's live telecast.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gun tragedy

Husband charged in wife's suicide

An upstate New York man has been charged with manslaughter in his wife's suicide by gunshot.

Authorities allege he showed despondent Kathie Skellie, 59, how to fire a shotgun before leaving her alone in their Glen Falls home to go hunting.

Willard Skellie, 69, was being held in jail Tuesday.

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Suspects in maple-syrup heist nabbed



Police say they have recovered two-thirds of the maple syrup stolen from a Quebec warehouse last summer. ISTOCK

Just a drop

Even though Quebec claims to produce four-fifths of the world's maple syrup, the missing barrels did not actually affect world prices.

- "In terms of volume it's very big, but in relation to the entire inventory, it's small," said Simon Trepanier, acting director-general of the Quebec Federation of Maple Syrup Producers.
- The missing amount constitutes barely one-tenth of the province's strategic reserve.

out for five other people.

"This investigation is not over," Claude Denis of the Quebec provincial police said.

"It's ongoing, and other arrests could follow."

Officers from the RCMP, the Canada Border Services Agency and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement assisted the Quebec provincial police in the investigation — which featured interviews with 300 people in the maple-syrup industry in Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and the northern U.S.

The alleged crime occurred at one of the several warehouses containing Quebec's maple-syrup stockpile, which is generally about 21 million kilos worth roughly \$120 million.

The theft was discovered during a routine inventory check at a warehouse in St-Louis-de-Blandford, Que.

"Two-thirds of stolen syrup was recovered," Denis said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sticky fingers. Three people arrested in connection with theft of 2.7 million kilos of sweet, sweet inventory

There have been arrests in the case of a massive maple-syrup heist, police announced Tuesday as they celebrated a break in their months-long multi-jurisdictional search for the stolen sticky stuff.

Three people have been detained in connection with the theft of a large quantity of the national condiment from a warehouse in Quebec.

About 2.7 million kilos of

maple syrup was reported missing after a routine inventory check last summer. Or, if your preferred unit of measurement is pancakes, the stolen amount would have provided a one-tablespoon topping for 183 million flapjacks.

Police say they have now recovered most of the missing syrup. They have also seized vehicles suspected of being used in the trafficking operation and equipment like scales and electronic lifts.

Those arrested were expected to face charges in a Trois-Rivières courtroom of theft, conspiracy, fraud and trafficking in stolen goods Tuesday.

There are arrest warrants

'Corrupting morals'

Gore artist testifies in obscenity trial

A Quebec special-effects artist charged with corrupting morals has defended himself in court, testifying that his gory works constitute art.

Remy Couture testified on his own behalf at a jury trial being heard Tuesday in Montreal.

Couture, 35, said the horror website he ran, Inner Depravity, which brought to life a psychopathic-killer character he created, is artistic and not pornographic.

He is charged with three counts of corrupting morals by distributing, possessing and producing obscene materials in a

case that explores the boundaries of artistic expression and Canadian obscenity laws.

The material includes hundreds of photos and a pair of videos that depict gruesome murders, torture, assaults and necrophilia — all with young female victims.

Couture said he was inspired by horror films and literature he'd read and created a serial-killer character.

The Crown describes the material on the site, not currently online, as obscene and says it goes too far. The prosecution says the work is dominated by sex and is criticizing the fact there was nothing to keep minors off the site.

Couture countered that the point of his artistic work is to make the gore look believable. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Death row

Governor spares obese inmate

The decision by Ohio's governor to spare a morbidly obese death-row inmate on legal grounds unrelated to the prisoner's weight means executions will likely carry on in the state next year.

Gov. John Kasich on Monday commuted the death sentence of Ronald Post to life without the possibility of parole.

Had the governor considered the argument used in Federal Court — that executing Post would amount to cruel and unusual punishment — other death row inmates may have been able to use the same argument.

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China cracks down on doomsayers

500 arrested. Police detain members of religious group described as a cult with 'political pendants'

Chinese police have detained more than 500 people from a fringe Christian group for spreading rumours about the world's impending end, state media reported Tuesday.

In China's Qinghai province alone, police arrested more than 400 members from the religious cult group, state-run China Central Television said Tuesday.

The detentions come ahead of Dec. 21 — a date some say the Mayans prophesied would be the end of the world.

Those detained are reported to be members of the group Almighty God, which is also called Eastern Lightning, after a phrase from the Bible's Book of Matthew.

Filling the spiritual void

- Chinese society has been in tumult as decades of rapid free-market economic growth discredit communist ideology.
- Into the spiritual void have rushed traditional Buddhist groups and Daoist practices, as well as evangelical Christian churches and other spiritual groups, some with unorthodox visions.

Widely regarded as a heretical Christian sect, the group preaches that Jesus has reappeared as a woman in central China. It has been accused of targeting Christians, kidnapping them and then beating them to force conversions.

The CCTV report called the group a cult and accused it of attacking the party and the government. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



At least 2 dead in building collapse in Italy

Firefighters clear rubble after two buildings collapsed overnight in Palermo, Italy, Tuesday. News reports say two people have died and two are unaccounted for. Survivors said a top floor had been added illegally onto one of the buildings recently. A half-dozen families managed to escape the collapse before the walls gave way and tumbled into the street in a heap of cement, furniture and housewares. A dozen people were injured.

FRANCESCO BAIAMONTE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ireland

New law to spell out women's right to abortions

Ireland's government says it will draft a new law spelling out the right of women to receive abortions in cases where the pregnancy poses a risk to their lives — including from a woman's own threats to commit suicide.

For two decades, successive governments have resisted passing any law in support of a 1992 Supreme Court judgment that such abortions should be legal in Ireland. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Nepal

Mob attacks police over killer elephant

Police in Nepal say angry villagers have attacked a police station while demanding that officers gun down an elephant that has killed at least four people.

Police official Deepak Thapa said hundreds of protesters in Chitwan also vandalized police vehicles. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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'Gangnam Style' deemed top YouTube video

Gone viral. South Korean singer beat out Justin Bieber's music video for Baby as most-watched clip of the year

Bieber's music video for Baby as the most-watched YouTube video ever, with over 800 million views. Just a few weeks later, Gangnam Style is now about 160 million views ahead of Baby.

Bieber did crack YouTube

It's getting harder and harder to find an Internet user who hasn't seen the veritably viral Gangnam Style music video.

Now closing in on a staggering one billion views, YouTube has officially named the clip by South Korean singer PSY as the top video of the year, both in Canada and globally.

In late November, Gangnam Style passed Justin



Top 5 videos in Canada

- 1 Gangnam Style by PSY
- 2 Somebody That I Used To Know by Walk off the Earth
- 3 KONY 2012
- 4 Call Me Maybe lip-synching sing-along featuring Justin Bieber and friends
- 5 Britney Spears learns Gangnam Style dance

Tube's annual top 10 list — not for one of his own songs, but for his lip-synching sing-along to Canadian Carly Rae Jepsen's monster hit Call Me Maybe. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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No hidden fees

Airfare ads must show total ticket price, feds say

The federal government says advertised airfares for flights originating in Canada must include all relevant fees so the travelling public can easily understand the total cost.

Transport Minister Denis Lebel said advertised prices for the public must include all taxes, fees and other charges so consumers can clearly see the total cost of an airline ticket, with no hidden fees. The "all-in" price doesn't need to include fees for optional services such as in-flight entertainment, meals and baggage, but the price of the options must be displayed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Policy change

Instagram says photos won't end up in advertising

Instagram, the popular photo-sharing service that Facebook bought this year, says it will revise a planned update to its service agreement after confusion about its intent led to widespread user complaints.

At issue is whether users' photos can be part of advertisements, on and off Instagram. The company said in a blog post Tuesday that it has no plans to put users' photos in advertisements. That said, Instagram maintains that it was created to become a business and would like to experiment with various forms of advertisements to make money. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Air Canada Rouge takes flight July 1

Discount travel. New carrier will focus on leisure travel market, with destinations in Europe, Caribbean

Air Canada is jumping into the low-cost leisure travel market with the launch of its new Rouge airline, which will begin flying on Canada Day to destinations in Europe and the Caribbean.

The airline will start with flights from Toronto to Venice and Edinburgh — two destinations that currently aren't served by Air Canada — and will serve Athens from Toronto and Montreal.

Air Canada's existing flights to Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Costa Rica will be flown by the discount carrier from Toronto.

The destinations are areas where demand for leisure travel has been growing, said Ben Smith, Air Canada's chief commercial officer. But many are



Air Canada's chief commercial officer Ben Smith, right, and Michael Friisdahl, CEO of Air Canada Leisure Group, second right, unveil new leisure airline Air Canada Rouge in downtown Toronto on Tuesday. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

routes that didn't generate adequate profits under Air Canada's existing cost structure.

"The creation of this carrier is to assist us in serving many destinations that our existing model does not work on a competitive basis," Smith said.

"This is not viewed as entering markets that we haven't been in the past, they are markets that we've always liked to serve, some we've already served in the past, we just had to have the right vehicle to exploit them properly."

For now, most of the flights will depart from Toronto, but the airline plans to add more Canadian gateways, along with more getaway destina-

tions throughout 2013. It is also examining the potential of flights to Asia.

It plans to hire 200 flight attendants and pilots for the new low-cost carrier.

The airline says flights to Venice, Edinburgh and Athens start at "special introductory fares" of \$949 round-trip, including all taxes, fees, charges and surcharges.

Flights to the Dominican Republic and Jamaica will start at \$269, one-way, while Cuba is offered starting at \$538 round-trip. All the introductory fares, which are available until Dec. 25, are based on Toronto departures.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Online shopping

Santa's little helper: Canada Post chucks up delivery record

Canada Post delivered a single-day record of one million parcels across Canada last Thursday, underlining moves by the federal Crown corporation to take advantage of a growing trend.

The single-day record represented an 11 per cent increase over the previous year's busiest day, Canada Post said.

And with seven days left before Christmas Day, Canada Post expects to deliver an additional 4.4 million parcels by the evening of Dec. 24.

"Achieving this milestone confirms that we are successfully repositioning Canada Post to serve the emerging needs of Canadians," said Jacques Cote, group president of the physical delivery network at Canada Post.

In recent years, Canada Post has made major investments in new equipment. "Our investments in modern equipment, flexible and motorized delivery methods, community mail and parcel boxes are paying off," Cote said.

He noted that an estimated \$8 billion worth of physical goods is ordered online in Canada each year for residential delivery, a figure forecasted to grow to more than \$15 billion by 2016. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute



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BVO. Drink additive is safe, Health Canada says

Major soft-drink makers and Health Canada say the use of brominated vegetable oil in Canadian beverages is safe, despite a growing movement elsewhere to ban its use.

The additive, which is used to cloud and stop separation in some drinks, has been banned in most of Europe for decades and Japan recently discontinued its use. However, BVO continues to be used in popular drinks sold in Canada, including some flavours of Gatorade, Powerade, Fresca, Mountain Dew and Amp Energy Drink.

BVO is classified as a food additive, but there is limited knowledge of its composition, researchers have said. It does contain bromine, which is also in flame retardants and has been found to build up in body lipids. A Health Canada spokesman said there are no health risks associated with BVO when it is used according to regulations. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

metronews.ca
Wednesday, December 19, 2012

BUSINESS

19

When shoppers hit 'like,' stores listen

Social media. Retailers decide what products to stock up on and what deals to offer based on online feedback

Facebook isn't just for goofy pictures and silly chatter. Whether shoppers know it or not, their actions online help dictate what's in stores during this holiday season.

After polling customers on the social media site, Macy's decided to carry denim jeans in bright neon hues rather than pastels. Walmart for the first time decided to let customers vote on which toys they want discounted. And to better plan orders for the decorative flags she sells, a small business owner in Mississippi is running a contest that encourages customers to chime in about how they're decorating their homes this winter.

The impact of social media on a company's bottom line is tough to quantify, with no hard



A shopper uses her smartphone at a Best Buy store in Florida in this Nov. 22 photo. By using social media, consumers can influence what products retailers carry during the crucial holiday buying season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

data on how millions of Facebook fans and Twitter followers translate into sales for stores.

But during the holiday shopping season, a roughly two-month period when retailers can make up to 40 per cent of their annual revenue, stores are uncovering a valuable use for all the seemingly useless online muttering: market research.

The result is that whenever folks press the "like" button

to give their seal of approval for a particular company's page or make a comment on how much they like the leather boots they just bought, they're helping everyone from independently owned small shops to the biggest retailers make decisions about what products to stock up on, what to play up on the sales floor and what promotions to offer online.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

German official says Facebook's real-name policy is verboten

Facebook will fight a German privacy watchdog's demand to allow users to register with fake names, insisting Tuesday that its current practice fully complies with the law.

The California-based social networking site has long required users to register with their real names — a policy that the data protection commissioner of Schleswig-Holstein state says is in breach of German law and

European rules designed to protect free speech online.

The commissioner, Thilo Weichert, ordered Facebook on Monday to rescind its real-name policy immediately.

"We believe the orders are without merit, a waste of German taxpayers' money and we will fight it vigorously," Facebook said in a statement. The company claims that its real-name policy is intended to protect users.

Weichert told The Asso-

ciated Press that Facebook has two weeks to respond. If it fails to comply with the order, his office can impose a penalty against the company, said Weichert.

The maximum fine would be only about \$65,000 — peanuts for a multinational company, but nevertheless a symbolic blow that could also lead to a tougher stance from other German and European privacy regulators.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CUDDLE PARTY MARKS END OF WORLD



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Looking for something to do the day the world ends? How about a Cuddle Party? There's one on the Last Day, this coming Friday, somewhere in Calgary. To ward off kuddle

krashers, you don't get to know the final location until you pay your 20 bucks and sign up. Then, apparently, you turn up in your pyjamas ready to cuddle. Or not.

WTF? You don't know about Cuddle Parties? Well, let me bring you up to speed. The Cuddle Party is the brainchild of two New York relationship counsellors (you're surprised?), Reid Mihalko and Marcia Baczynski, who started them in their "tiny Manhattan apartment" in 2004. They spread immediately to the Left Coast, and from there to Vancouver and Calgary, the apparent, er, hot bed of Canadian cuddling.

In a nutshell

The idea is to bring a bunch of people together, most of them total strangers, and create a group grope that stays on the disappointing side of sexuality throughout.

Those eastern bastards may have to freeze in the dark, but Calgary has Cuddle Power to keep it warm.

The idea is to bring a bunch of people together, most of them total strangers, and create a group grope that stays on the disappointing side of sexuality throughout.

Organizers are adamant. No sex. According to the Rules (and there are plenty of them), if you get turned on, just wait and it will go

away. So they say. Just to make sure: no alcohol or shorts allowed. Pyjamas with drawstrings — this is a lace-free zone.

The first 40 minutes of the event involves a presentation on How to Cuddle, giving leery participants enough time to work up the courage to cuddle some guy you might not care to sit next to on the bus, especially considering the way he's looking at you.

But don't worry! By the end of the evening, you'll have discovered the Joy of Cuddling and will be prepared to cuddle anyone or anything. Or not. One of the features of the Cuddle Party is that it offers participants an opportunity to learn how to say NO in the clench. Each touch essentially has to be negotiated in advance. If the cuddlee says yes (not yes! yes! yes!) then the cuddler can proceed with some respectful, non-sexual touching.

This advanced course in touching strangers leads to a lot of (painfully) sincere, convoluted language from participant testimonials on the website cuddlepary.com about learning to say no in order to say yes, or is it the other way around? And about how cuddling is not always about sex and various other things guys will say when they hope to get lucky.

Look, I can't think of anything I'd rather do less on my last day on Earth than cuddle with the cast of Portlandia, but that's just me. I can Just Say No, can't I?

But you go ahead and get to yes. Just remember, that's all you're getting.



If you haven't heard of Cuddle Parties yet, get well acquainted. CUDDLEPARTY.COM

This looks a bit fishy



KIM PRESTON/REX FEATURES

'Animal' photography

Plastic shot to look like sea creatures

This image of odd-looking sea creatures would have marine biologists baffled, but it in fact shows an everyday object shot to represent sea animals. The project, titled Plastic Pacific, was created by Australian artist Kim Preston, 33, who wanted to draw attention to the devastating effect of plastic buildup in oceans around the globe. **METRO**

Artist's viewpoint

"I hoped that the prettiness of the images would draw people in more than if I showed the far uglier reality."

Kim Preston, digital designer and illustrator, 33, from Melbourne
Passionate about the preservation of our oceans, Preston added that "this is a photographically based rant against the irresponsible overuse of plastic. I recently obtained a scuba-diving certificate in Indonesia and seeing all of the plastic caught on the reefs inspired this project."

Process of photograph

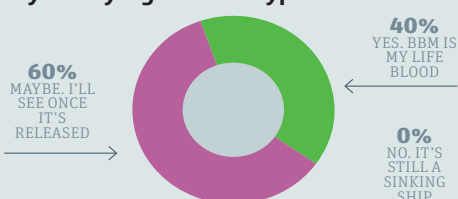
Creativity used to shoot under budget

Shot in her garden shed, Preston used a blue fabric as the backdrop and hung all the objects from a clothes rack while she photographed them. For the shower caps, she would quickly blow into them before snapping a shot with a wireless shutter release. She had planned to shoot the series inside a fish tank, but her lack of budget forced her to become more creative. **METRO**



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RIM's BlackBerry 10 is getting rave reviews.
Are you buying into the hype?



Twitter

@lilbanne: I haven't seen more than 2 peace officers in 15 years on the train. And now there has been one every day since #westLRT opened and at 6 am

@MissAMcC: My childhood dream could become a reality. The Price is Right is coming to Calgary! #yyc Bring on the Showcase Showdown!

@poor_choices: Guy just got on the train with a

f'ing boom box blasting rap music. Are you kidding me? #yyc #yycrensit

@NikiReitmayer: It makes me feel better to blame this entire traffic jam on the person directly in front of me #YYC

@leahstef: Managed to go 4 months without hearing Pitbull or Flo Rida ... but that has been broken thanks to #yyc radio

Apocalypse now?

The end of the world may or may not be upon us, but Hollywood has been preparing us for this moment for decades. The higher the stakes, the bigger the drama, and there's no higher stakes than the fate of the entire world. So here's our picks for the best movies about the end of the world.

NED EHRBAR
scene@metronews.ca

1. Children of Men (2006)

Alfonso Cuarón's adaptation of P.D. James' novel about a world unraveling after women stop being able to get pregnant is a masterpiece, a gripping and hyper-realistic look at how society deals with calamity. The real tragedy is how little attention it got upon its release. Watch it now, while you still have time.



2. Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying

and Love the Bomb (1964)



Stanley Kubrick made it OK to laugh in the face of possible nuclear annihilation with this pointed satire of escalation and mutually assured destruction, culminating with Slim Pickens' famous ride on a warhead.

3. Melancholia (2011)

Dazzling visuals and an impressive, against-type performance by Kirsten Dunst buoy this divisive film from Lars von Trier about a family trying to get through a wedding while a rogue planet hurtles toward Earth, threatening total annihilation.



4. The Cabin in the Woods (2012)



Spoiler alert: Drew Goddard's hilarious, twist-filled take on horror movies (co-written by Joss Whedon) is more than it seems.

5. Last Night (1998)

A quiet, delightful indie precursor to Seeking a Friend for the End of the World, Don McKeller's film gives a distinctly Canadian look at the end of the world. Toronto residents have had months to prepare, so there's little need for panic.



6. The Road (2009)



A gut-punch of a film, John Hillcoat's screen adaptation is just as chilling and stark as the Cormac McCarthy novel on which it is based. The world may not actually end in this one, but from the looks of what's become of things, it might as well have.

7. Seeking a Friend for the End of the World (2012)

A refreshing take on the asteroid headed to Earth plot, this road movie with Steve Carell and Keira Knightley is surprisingly charming — and features a barrage of comic cameos as the main characters head out across the country with three weeks to live.



8. On the Beach (1959)



Long before CGI could render total destruction in realistic detail, we had Gregory Peck and Ava Gardner waiting out the end in Australia after a global nuclear war in this Cold War-era drama, notable for its non-Hollywood ending.

Movie review

A Guilt Trip down the middle lane

The Guilt Trip

Director. Anne Fletcher

Stars. Seth Rogen, Barbra Streisand



What made The Guilt Trip an interesting premise also ultimately works against it. Sure, crafting a road-trip comedy with Barbra Streisand as mother to Seth Rogen's coddled adult son may attract fans from disparate camps, but by skirting down the middle, the comedy ends up compromised for both sides. Ultimately, the Babs side wins as Streisand's overbearing Jewish matriarch makes Rogen look like he's just holding back. **STEVE GOW/METRO**

Week of Armageddon

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Channing Tatum's wife Jenna Dewan-Tatum has a bun in the oven.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

'Sexiest Man Alive' reproducing

Capping off an amazing year that's included several hit movies and a Sexiest Man Alive title, Channing Tatum is now gearing up for fatherhood. Tatum's wife, Jenna Dewan-Tatum, is expecting the couple's first child sometime next year, their rep con-

firmed to People magazine. And it may not be the last.

"I'm ready. I think she's ready," Tatum recently told the magazine. "The first number that pops into my head is three, but I just want one to be healthy and then we'll see where we go after that."



Mila Kunis was one of hacker Christopher Chaney's victims.

Celeb hacker gets 10 years

Christopher Chaney, the man responsible for hacking the email accounts of more than 50 celebrities and posting their intimate photos online, has been sentenced to 10 years in prison, according to E! News.

Chaney was also ordered to pay restitution fees of \$66,179 by the judge, who admonished Chaney for his "callous disregard to his victims" during the hearing. His famous victims included Scarlett Johansson, Miley Cyrus, Jessica Alba and Mila Kunis.



METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Bend it like Burberry? The 10-year-old kid of Posh and England's soccer superstar will be one of the new faces of the British luxury label come 2013.

Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Beckham?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Maybe he's just not that good with a soccer ball?

It was announced this week that at only 10 years old, David and Victoria Beckham's son Romeo Beckham is the "baby face" of Burberry's spring/summer '13 campaign, joining a long list of models and stars who have fronted ads for the house, including Cara Delevingne, Edie Campbell and Eddie Redmayne. "We had such fun shooting the campaign and I think that comes through in the images, which really reflect the upbeat spirit of the collection," Burberry's creative director Christopher Bailey says.

Perhaps Burberry really wanted his dad, David Beckham, but then decided they wanted to go with someone who has more of a mature, male voice?

In other news: A 2012 coming-out recap

Who: Anderson Cooper, journalist.

How: In an email to blogger Andrew Sullivan.

What was said: "The fact is, I'm gay," Cooper wrote. "Always have been, always will be, and I couldn't be any more happy, comfortable with myself and proud." Cooper, who was the subject of rumours for years, addressed his silence in the email. "I have given some the mistaken impression that I am trying to hide something — something that makes me uncomfortable, ashamed or even afraid. This is distressing because it is simply not true."

Who: Wade Davis, a cornerback who spent four pre-seasons with three NFL teams.

How: In an interview with Outsports.com.

What was said: "You just want to be one of the guys, and you don't want to lose that sense of family," Davis said about not coming out sooner. "Your biggest fear is that you'll lose that camaraderie and family." There has yet to be an openly gay player in any of the four major American professional leagues.

Who: Lee "Uncle Poodle" Thompson, redneck.

How: Just by appearing on Honey Boo Boo.

What was said: Thompson's homosexuality isn't a huge to-do on the show; he's out and proud. As Alana says in the season finale, "ain't nothin' wrong with bein' a little gay."



E.T. star is adult enough to admit she still makes mistakes.

Drew still a kid at heart

Drew Barrymore has done a lot of growing up, but that doesn't mean she feels like an adult.

"The mistakes, the potholes, the journeys, the

bad patterns — all of it is so much clearer to me now, but I still don't totally feel like a grown-up," the 37-year-old new mom tells Allure magazine. "Maybe I never will."



Zoey Deschanel and Death Cab for Cutie's Benjamin Gibbard are never, ever, getting back together.

Cutie divorce finalized

Zoey Deschanel's marriage to Death Cab for Cutie frontman Benjamin Gibbard is officially over, with the former couple formalizing their divorce in a Los Angeles court last week, just over a

month after separating, according to E! News. And the New Girl star appears to already be moving on, having been spotted recently walking hand-in-hand with new screenwriter boyfriend Jamie Linden.

Twitter



@SteveMartinToGo

Still not feeling funny, nor is funny feeling appropriate.



@Sethrogen

After watching Homeland and Zero Dark Thirty, I'm really thinking the CIA should release a line of sexy lady's pantsuits.



@BryanSinger

I can't seem to tweet without misspelling something. :(



@AlbertBrooks

Gerard Depardieu gives up French citizenship and moves to Belgium. Taxes or waffles?

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MANUFACTURER COUPON EXPIRY DATE: MARCH 31, 2013

This holiday season, think South Pole instead of North

Icy wonderland. While Santa's homeland might be on our minds right now, Antarctica's unspoiled landscape beckons travellers

DOUG
WALLACE
life@metronews.ca

Who owns Antarctica? The penguins, of course — several million of them (cute little devils, too). At 1.4 times the size of Canada, the seventh continent to tick off your bucket list is rich with incredible wildlife, pristine vistas and amazing history. With the season stretching from the end of November to the beginning of March, and January temps hovering at zero around the northern part of the Antarctic Peninsula, this trip south could be your chance to be a real snowbird this winter.

The starting gate

The expedition begins with an overnight in Ushuaia, a small city of 65,000 at the bottom of Argentina that bills itself as the "city at the end of the world." Just a few kilometres from Tierra del Fuego National Park, it was originally founded as a prison colony, and the old prison has been converted into a museum complex, which includes a full wing on Antarctica.

The ship

Most of the cruise ships that serve Antarctica are a smaller variety; great for squeezing through ice-filled canals. Toronto-based Quark Expeditions has been ferrying people across the notorious Drake Passage for 20 years, with a comfort-

ably high guest-to-crew ratio and an excellent track record. On-board experts share their knowledge of ornithology, marine biology, zoology and geology with insightful talks during downtimes on the voyage down and back, as well as throughout the trip. Photography courses help guests get that perfect shot, and a wellness program includes yoga classes and massage therapy — both great for relieving backs left sore from a day of hiking and Zodiac boat rides around all the icebergs.

The crowd

A truly international crowd makes this trek — from the fleece-clad adventurers to the retirees bored with the Caribbean to the young marrieds getting in some travel miles before they start a family.

"Antarctica captures people's imagination regardless of their age, and people come with different goals," says Quark expedition leader David Wood.

Visiting scientists gathering data could well accompany you on your excursions, and are eager to talk about their work. Whether guests are gung-ho adventure types or a "contemplative" group that takes things easier, there is pretty much something for everyone.

The excursions

After two days at sea, when you reach land-ho, out come the Zodiac pontoon boats. Twice daily spins around the various harbours and bays, plus landings on islands that dot the Antarctic Peninsula as well as the continent itself, make for a flurry of activity. Sea kayaking is a great way to interact with the scenery and connect with the water and the wildlife. Penguin colonies, secluded bays of berg-filled waters, lazy seals on



Hikes around the islands of Antarctica reveal breathtaking views. ALL PHOTOS: TIM STEWART

thick ice floes, majestic birds, gorgeous glacial ice sculptures, rocky peaks — the photo ops are beyond stunning.

The eco-friendliness

All Antarctica tour operators uphold the same objectives to keep the region as pristine as possible, following directives outlined in The Antarctic Treaty, which was signed in 1959.

Among other things, this involves preventing the introduction of non-native species to the area, be it plants or disease.

Travellers step through a disinfecting boot bath getting on and off the ship. You leave zero evidence of ever having stepped on Antarctica, except for your footprint.



The penguins are the real stars of the cruise, entertaining travellers with their antics.

If you go...

- **Tours.** For 2013-2014, Quark Expeditions has a few new adventures, including a Greenland cruise and a Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica voyage that departs from Buenos Aires. It features the first-ever Polar Floating Documentary Film Festival, and was just voted one of Wanderlust Travel magazine's 50 Best Trips of 2013. Check it all out at quarkexpeditions.com.

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Darren Parkman has a need for speed at the Las Vegas Motorways. CONTRIBUTED/DARREN PARKMAN

Travellin' Canadian Darren Parkman tries life in the fast lane

Las Vegas. Forget gambling and partying, whizzing around a racetrack in a \$300,000 car is one of Sin City's biggest thrills



THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN
Darren Parkman
travel@metronews.ca

As if endless bars, glitzy shows, and nerve-racking blackjack weren't enough, there's an even more exciting way to get the adrenaline pumping in Vegas.

How about putting pedal to metal behind the wheel of a \$300,000 racing Ferrari?

If you've got the nerve, the skills and several hundred dollars, Dream Racing at Las Vegas Motorways is for you.

A little backstory: My first car was a beloved '73 Pinto, so I'm no Mario Andretti behind the wheel. Still, I couldn't resist

the urge to at least pretend I was, and hopefully emerge in one piece.

Located less than a half hour from the strip, LV Motorways is a genuine race track, complete with grand stands and a challenging track.

After a brief but intimidating car simulator session, I found myself suiting up and strapping into an honest to goodness real Ferrari F450 GT race car.

Just the roar of the engine was enough to strike fear into my heart. Luckily, an experienced driver was right beside me in the passenger seat, shouting commands through my headset and telling me when to hit the gas. And hit the gas I did. Ever wonder what it feels like to be inside a launching rocket? I don't wonder anymore.

All the while, my driving instructor is yelling for me to gear up or gear down with the steering column paddle. Probably the single coolest moment was when I took my first corner at full throttle. Whereas most cars would

Other Las Vegas adventures

- **Indoor skydiving.** Suit up and dive into a tube with a giant fan blasting you upwards. Simulates actual skydiving and free falling. The fan generates winds up to 193 kilometres per hour.
- **Freemont St. zipline.** Soar above the most historic street in Vegas. Flightlinez offers rides for only \$20 nightly after 6 p.m.

probably roll multiple times at this point, this amazing Ferrari felt like it was glued to the track even on a sharp bend.

After getting a bit used to the G-force, I found myself screaming and laughing hysterically as I lapped my opponent, whose driving I felt was a bit too grandma-like.

This experience is well worth the price of admission. And I don't miss that Pinto anymore.

Stocking stuffers

Traveller on your list? Here are some items guaranteed to please



LOREN CHRISTIE
life@metronews.ca

Travelon's airline compliant toiletries come in sheets of 50 and can fit in your pocket. Just dissolve them in water and use them to shave, wash or do your laundry. Buy a set of two for \$10. travelonbags.com.

Baja Books' Pocketsize Phrasebooks come in numerous languages including Spanish, Italian and Japanese. Small, light and easy to use for any loved ones who like to make friends as they explore new countries. \$5.95 each. speedylanguage.com.

Whether it's the jungle, beach or desert, the Canadian-made Cool Scarf will keep you cool for 48 hours. Just soak it in clean, cold water for 20 minutes. Polymer crystals hidden inside absorb the water and become a cooling gel. Available in

numerous colours and designs for \$18. heatcutters.com.

Spare Soles Portable Flats are for the ladies in your life who want a break from their heels, whether in an airport, on the plane or at the hotel. They are compact and foldable and fit in the smallest of purses or pockets. Prices start at \$13 US, sparesoles.com.

Want to avoid dry-cleaning bills on the road? Travel Essentials' Laundry Pac includes detergent, laundry line and sink stopper for those who travel light but want to keep it fresh. \$11 at austinhouse.com

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Roasting chestnuts on an open fire



THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Do people really roast chestnuts?

Yes, says Linda Grimo of Grimo Nut Nursery in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont. But the easiest way to do them is on the barbecue, she says. Nuts have been part of the holiday tradition for centuries, with both religious and pagan origins cited by various sources. Although cooks tend to incorporate them in dishes throughout the year, they are a staple of holiday entertaining.

There are options aside from roasting

Sautéing peeled chestnuts in a frying pan is an alternative to barbecuing. If you boil them briefly first, the nuts will "pop right out" of the skin, says Grimo. She cooks them in butter for at least 10 minutes, adding sugar to caramelize them for a sweet treat or garlic or onions if she wants to add them to vegetable or meat dishes.

Can-uts

The only two types of nuts grown here commercially are hazelnuts and heartnuts — in very small quantities. Peanuts also are grown, but they're not really nuts. They're a legume and part of the bean family. It's a mystery to Grimo. "Nuts are so easy to farm and very profitable," she says. But farmers have been slow to pick up on the opportunity.

Storage

Store-bought nuts in the shell or in jars can be stored at room temperature, but freshly harvested nuts have a high moisture content and need to dry out. Grimo advises people who pick black walnuts, for example, to hang them in a burlap sack in the furnace room for three weeks, preferably with a small fan near them to circulate air through the bag. Chestnuts are the exception and should always be stored in the refrigerator.

The weigh in

Nuts are very good for us, says dietitian Doug Cook, and since they all have different nutrients in varying degrees, eating a variety is best. Ounce for ounce, nuts contain between 150 and 200 calories. The number of servings per person should depend on age, activity level and body weight. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/DOUG COOK, DIETITIAN AND DIRECTOR OF THE TORONTO CHAPTER OF HEALTHCASTLE.COM.**

Cocktails of the Week

Fig and Maple

Something about fig and maple syrup just goes together. And when you add a little liquor, you have a delicious and warming combination that is perfect for those nights when you're curled up in front of the fire.

- 2 fresh or dried fig
- 1 tbsp ginger marmalade
- 1 oz hot water
- 2 oz Bombay Sapphire
- 2 oz fresh lime juice
- 2 oz ginger beer
- 1 oz maple syrup

1. In a shaker, muddle fig with ginger marmalade and water. Add Bombay Sapphire, fresh lime juice, ginger beer and maple syrup. Add ice and double strain into glass.



PHOTO
AND RECIPE
COURTESY
BOMBAY SAP-
PHIRE

Maple Leaf

Your favourite bourbon gets shaken up with a local maple syrup and freshly squeezed lemon garnished with cranberries.

- 1.5 oz Bourbon
- 0.5 oz maple syrup
- squeeze of fresh lemon
- cranberries for garnish

1. Shake ingredients, including fresh lemon with ice.

2. Strain into glass over fresh ice.

3. Float 3 cranberries on top of ice.

4. Add a cocktail straw and serve. PHOTO AND RECIPE COURTESY OF FIRKIN PUBS, FIRKINPUBS.COM

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Halfway in and having some doubts?

School switcharoo.

It's not uncommon for mixed feelings to make their way into the minds of learners

CHRISTINA
PELLEGRINI
TalentEgg.ca

So your college or university major isn't what you thought it'd be. Maybe the career opportunities you thought you'd have haven't panned out. Or perhaps you've discovered a new interest.

Fall classes may be over, but there's still time to meet with an academic advisor and change your winter schedule to pursue a new major or specialization.

According to the University of Calgary, the majority of university students switch their majors at least once. Reasons why vary from not being hired to discovering new interests to just plain uncertainty.

What should you do if you're interested in something else?

It's easy to follow your friends, study what your parents tell you to or pursue a career based



Be cautious of stacking your schedule with similar classes. Try to study a variety of subjects to get a wider perspective and discover your other interests earlier. ISTOCK

on how much it pays. But you have to deal with your career choices, Toronto-based community manager Stephanie Fusco says.

Fusco studied politics at Queen's University and hoped to go to law school since she was in high school. But in a fourth-year political communications seminar, she realized that she loved strategy, speech writing and communications

more. She graduated from Queen's and later pursued her passion and earned a post-graduate certificate in public relations from Humber College.

"I knew I made the right choice when I found myself putting more effort into my Humber application than I was putting into worrying about whether I'd get into law school," she says. "I'm sure I'm

doing what I'm supposed to do and my career is on a path I'm very happy with."

Maybe there's an aspect of your major you love. It may take some reflection or experimentation to figure it out, but try to pursue a degree and a career in the aspect that interests you the most, Fusco adds.

What should you do if you're not sure?

Drawn to different choices

"I knew I made the right choice when I found myself putting more effort into my Humber application than I was putting into worrying about whether I'd get into law school."

Stephanie Fusco
Toronto-based community manager

If you're unsure about your interests or aspirations, choose an undecided major. According to the University of California, students who enter college with an undeclared major change their focus fewer times than students who declare their major. So when you do make a decision, you'll make it count.

What should you do if you weren't recruited this fall?

Many large companies have already filled their entry level or leadership program positions by now. Don't panic if you haven't been hired. Take rejection as an opportunity to assess your inter-

ests, goals and options.

When an accounting firm didn't recruit Nick Guadagnolo last year, the then aspiring auditor and fourth-year accounting student at the Schulich School of Business enrolled in organizational behaviour and marketing classes in his final semester instead.

"An accounting specialization without a CA designation was not what I wanted," Guadagnolo says. "I excelled at, and quite frankly derived so much more pleasure from, the not-so-numerical aspects of the BBA degree."

He studied things like sports marketing, crisis management and operating a family business. He wrote the LSAT in June, applied to law school this fall, travelled frequently and continues to work part-time in HR. For Guadagnolo, there is credence to a plan of action that doesn't involve immediately jumping into the fray. It sounds scary now, but maybe the same applies to you too.

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Canadian juniors not sleeping on jet-lag issues

Travel concerns. Trip to Ufa, Russia, just one more obstacle on road to world championship

The puck drop for Canada's first three games at the world junior hockey championship in Russia is 2:30 a.m. MST.

Host city Ufa is 10 to 14 hours ahead of the Canadian players' body clocks, depending on what part of the country they're from. A Canadian junior team hasn't travelled this far, or crossed this many time zones, since the 2001 tournament in Moscow. Ufa is another 1,160 kilometres and two time zones to the southeast.

Jet lag and travel fatigue will be major challenges, barriers as significant on the road to gold as the Russians, Swedes and Americans.

Hockey Canada enlisted the expertise of Calgary sleep specialist Dr. Charles Samuels to



Canadian players, from left, Nathan MacKinnon, Jonathan Drouin and Jonathan Huberdeau look on during team photos last Friday in Calgary. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

draw up a plan to combat jet lag and sleep deprivation.

"I've met with sleep doctors, sports psychologists, neuro-psychologists," Canadian head coach Steve Spott said. "I've met with just about every doctor possible."

The accepted rule is it takes a day for every hour of time difference to adapt. Samuels aims to accelerate the adjustment.

Travel fatigue gets less atten-

tion than jet lag, he says, but for athletes who travel to far-flung places a lot, it can be damaging to performance. The cumulative effects of extensive travel fatigue the body and mind. Even though the Canadian team is travelling to Ufa only once, the distance and time on planes can catch up with them.

Samuels drew up Canada's

'No screwing around'

The Canadian team is currently training in Finland, a four-hour time difference from Ufa, Russia. The players were on a strict schedule from the moment the wheels went up on their flight from Calgary on Saturday.

- One of the worst things a team can do, says Samuels, is get on the plane exhausted, but it was inevitable some players would be after selection camp.

- "We really talked about on the flight, eye shades, ear plugs, noise-cancellation headphones, all the pillows and comfort you need and the plane is for rest. No screwing around," Samuels said.

Quoted

"It's basically a survival situation if you look at the frequency of games, the time of the games and then the fact there's virtually no time to recover before the finals."

Calgary sleep specialist Dr. Charles Samuels

Refusing to buckle on value of knuckle



New Blue Jays starter R.A. Dickey began toying with the knuckleball in 2005 while with the Texas Rangers and initially struggled with it. But Dickey continued working on the pitch and has enjoyed solid success with it since joining the New York Mets in 2010. MARC SEROTA/GETTY IMAGES FILE

It's quirky, unpredictable and has been described in baseball circles as an oddity and "pitch of last resort."

But the Toronto Blue Jays are banking on R.A. Dickey's dancing knuckleball.

The Jays acquired the National League Cy Young Award winner in a seven-player deal with the Mets on Monday.

Dickey, 38, posted a 20-6 record and 2.73 earned-run average with New York in 2012, but his go-to pitch wasn't a blazing fastball, nasty slider or deep-bending curve. Often he got batters out with the knuckleball, a slow, unassuming pitch that flutters like a butterfly.

By the numbers

4

R.A. Dickey is the fourth pitcher to win the Cy Young only to be traded before the next season, joining David Cone, Pedro Martinez and Roger Clemens.

"This may be a pitch of last resort, which I think is accurate, but think about over history how many last resorts have ended up being successful," Dickey said during a conference call on Tuesday. "A lot."

General manager Alex Anthopoulos signed Dickey to a two-year, \$25-million US con-

tract extension with a \$12-million club option for 2016. Dickey is scheduled to earn \$5.25 million in 2013.

"I think Alex should be commended on being able to see past those stereotypical analyses a lot of guys give the pitch as a gimmick or something that isn't legitimate," Dickey said. "I think we can all admit the past year and the past three years in general have been legitimate."

The good news for Toronto is Dickey started six games against the American League over his three seasons in New York, posting a 4-0 record and 1.71 ERA. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

NFL

Judge lowers bond in Cowboy Brent's manslaughter case

A judge ordered Dallas Cowboys nose tackle Josh Brent to wear an electronic monitor pending his trial on an intoxication manslaughter charge in the one-car crash that killed a teammate.

State District Judge Fred Tinsley also lowered Brent's bond from \$500,000 US to \$100,000 on Tuesday. He ordered Brent not to drink alcohol or drive without a valid driver's licence. Prosecutors say Brent was driving with a suspended licence on the night of the Dec. 8 crash that killed friend and Cowboys practice squad member Jerry Brown. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Dallas Cowboys tackle Josh Brent leaves court in Dallas on Tuesday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Tennis

Ottawa-born Levine looking to play for Canada

Canada's tennis ranks are getting some reinforcements, but possibly not in time for a high-profile Davis Cup match against Spain in February.

A Tennis Canada spokesman has confirmed that Jesse

Levine is applying to tennis authorities to represent Canada rather than the U.S.

The 25-year-old Levine, ranked 104th in the world, was born in Ottawa but moved to the U.S. when he was 13.

The ATP lists his residence as Boca Raton, Fla.

Levine has petitioned the International Tennis Federation to represent Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Raps rolling: Toronto snaps road losing streak vs. Cavs



Cleveland Cavaliers' Kyrie Irving, left, shoots inside on Toronto Raptor John Lucas on Tuesday in Cleveland. Irving scored 23 points in the Cavaliers' 113-99 loss to Toronto. MARK DUNCAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA. Raptors' first win as visitors since Nov. 13 is also their third victory on the trot

Fed up with losing, the Toronto Raptors are finally changing their attitude.

"Sooner or later, you've got to man up and buck up," coach Dwane Casey said after a 113-99 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Tuesday night.

The Raptors bucked up in many ways in winning their third straight game for the first time this season. Jose Calderon scored a season-high 23 points and Toronto won on the road for the second time this season. The Raptors snapped an 11-game skid away from home, winning on the road for the first time since Nov. 13 when they beat Indiana. Toronto is 2-14 away from the Air Canada Centre.

"At some point, you have to play and have some fun," Calderon said. "At the end of the day, it's a team sport. It's about doing it the right way and getting everyone involved — that's what we're doing right now."

Alan Anderson hit three 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and finished with 18 points

Tuesday's game

113

99

Raptors

Cavaliers

for Toronto. Amir Johnson scored 17 points and DeMar DeRozan added 16. John Lucas III had eight points in the final quarter, including a key four-point play.

Toronto again played without centre Andrea Bargnani and guard Kyle Lowry, their second and third leading scorers. Both have missed the last four games. Bargnani has an injured right elbow while Lowry has a torn right triceps.

Cleveland coach Byron Scott knows his team hasn't been doing much right lately. The Cavaliers have dropped 10 of 11.

"When you give up 64 points in the second half and 35 in the fourth quarter, you're not going to win a lot of games," Scott said.

The Raptors have won six of their last eight games against the Cavaliers overall, including each of their last four trips to Cleveland.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL. Crosby sneaks in as goalie at ball hockey game

Sid the Kid won't let the NHL lockout keep him on the bench, even if it means returning to the game in an unlikely fashion.

The Penguins superstar dropped in on some ball hockey last week, donning the goalie pads and posting a shutout against his aptly named opponents, Flyers Suck.

"It was pretty unbelievable," said Joseph Heaney, who was referee at the Dek-Star Dekhockey Center in Ohio Township, northwest of Pittsburgh.

"To have the greatest hockey player in the world standing next to you, it's kind of surreal that he's standing right there, playing."

The 24-year-old said Sidney Crosby suited up in the parking lot before the Dec. 14 game.

Nobody noticed they were

Quoted

"I couldn't believe how cool he was."

Ohio Township ball hockey referee James Heaney after Sidney Crosby showed up in showed up to play a game.

in the presence of celebrity until the dying minutes of the second period, when Heaney ran down the outdoor rink to make an icing call, he said.

"I got the ball from (Crosby), and I was like, 'Oh thanks, man. I don't see you playing goalie for this team usually.' And I looked at his mask, and I was like, 'Holy ...' He just started laughing."

"I waited until after the game to tell everybody," added Heaney. "He just wanted to be normal for a change and play with his friends."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Soccer

Messi extends his stay in Barcelona

Lionel Messi agreed on a new contract with Barcelona on Tuesday through 2018.

Messi, the three-time world player of the year, has 90 goals in 2012, surpassing Gerd Mueller's 40-year-old

milestone of 85 in a calendar year.

Xavi Hernandez and Carles Puyol also agreed to new deals with the Spanish giant.

In a statement released by the club, Messi, whose contract was due to expire on June 30, 2016, extended his commitment to the club to June 30, 2018.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Six stories to remember

There was victory and heartache as Canadian athletes made headlines around the world in 2012. From no NHL hockey to Ryder Hesjedal's Giro d'Italia triumph, here's a look at some of the top Canadian sports stories of 2012:

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Photos by the Torstar News Service/The Canadian Press/Getty Images



The Lockout

The NHL lockout likely had a bigger impact on more people who watch or make a living off sports than anything else in 2012.

Arenas were dark, players and owners lost hundreds of millions in pay and revenue, bar and restaurant owners scowled at empty seats and fans grumbled and wondered when it was all going to end.

The Penalty

Referee Christiana Pederson's call in an Olympic women's soccer semifinal pretty much had a whole country gnashing its teeth and feeling betrayed.

The call against Canadian goalkeeper Erin McLeod for holding the ball too long — which observers agreed was almost un-

precedented — gave the U.S. the break they needed to send the game into extra time and win.



The Tragedy

B.C.'s Sarah Burke was the golden girl of freestyle skiing, widely considered a favourite for Olympic gold in 2014, when she crashed and died in January.

Burke was only 29 when she had what looked like an innocuous fall in Park City, Utah, during a halfpipe training run. It ruptured an artery that carries blood to the brain and renewed calls to look at safety in the sport.

The Cup

The Grey Cup game celebrated its centennial in 2012 with a party in Toronto made even sweeter by the home team's victory.

The first cup was awarded to the University of Toronto Varsity Blues in 1909. It only hit its centennial in terms of games in 2012 because of missed championships

due to the First World War and a rules dispute in 1919.



The Cyclist

In a year when cycling suffered its biggest black eye ever with the Lance Armstrong doping scandal, there was one shining story for Canadian cyclists — Ryder Hesjedal's win at the Giro d'Italia.

In May, the Victoria native became the first Canadian ever to win one of cycling's three Grand Tour events.

The Trade

The mammoth 12-player trade with the Miami Marlins was designed to turn the Toronto Blue Jays into a pennant contender and it left Miami fans wondering where their team was headed.

Toronto walked away with all-star shortstop

Jose Reyes, pitchers Mark Buehrle and Josh Johnson, catcher John Buck and infielder/outfielder Emilio Bonifacio.



NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	18	6	.750	—
Miami	16	6	.727	1
Atlanta	15	7	.682	2
Chicago	14	10	.583	4
Milwaukee	13	10	.565	4½/2
Brooklyn	13	11	.542	5
Indiana	13	12	.520	5½/2
Boston	12	12	.500	6
Philadelphia	12	13	.480	6½/2
Orlando	11	13	.458	7
Charlotte	7	16	.304	10½/2
Toronto	7	19	.269	12
Detroit	7	20	.259	12½/2
Cleveland	5	21	.192	14
Washington	3	19	.136	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	20	4	.833	—
L.A. Clippers	18	6	.750	2
Memphis	16	6	.727	3
San Antonio	19	8	.704	2½/2
Golden State	16	8	.667	4
Denver	14	12	.538	7
Utah	14	12	.538	7
Minnesota	12	11	.522	7½/2
Houston	12	12	.500	8
Dallas	12	13	.480	8½/2
Portland	11	12	.478	8½/2
L.A. Lakers	11	14	.440	9½/2
Phoenix	10	15	.400	10½/2
Sacramento	7	17	.292	13
New Orleans	5	18	.217	14½/2

Division leaders ranked in top three positions and best eight teams qualify for playoffs

Tuesday's results

Toronto 113 Cleveland 99
Atlanta 100 Washington 95 OT
Utah 92 Brooklyn 90
Miami 103 Minnesota 92
Chicago 100 Boston 89
Milwaukee 98 Indiana 93
Dallas 107 Philadelphia 100
Denver 112 San Antonio 106
Charlotte at L.A. Lakers
New Orleans at Golden State

Monday's results

Orlando 102 Minnesota 93
Houston 109 New York 96
L.A. Clippers 88 Detroit 76
Memphis 80 Chicago 71
Oklahoma City 107 San Antonio 93
Phoenix 101 Sacramento 90

Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern

Utah at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Brooklyn at New York, 7 p.m.
Washington at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Houston, 8 p.m.
Charlotte at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Milwaukee at Memphis, 9:30 p.m.
Golden State at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
New Orleans at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Thursday's games

Oklahoma City at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Miami at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.
Denver at Portland, 10 p.m.

RAPTORS 113, CAVALIERS 99

TORONTO (113)

Calderon 10-15 0-0 23, Anderson 6-12 1-2 18, Johnson 6-7 5-5 17, DeRozan 4-9 8-8 16, Lucas 4-7 1-1 11, Kleiza 2-6 6-7 10, Valanciunas 3-6 2-4 8, Davis 2-7 0-0 4, Pietrus 1-4 0-0 3, Ross 1-2 0-0 3. Totals 39-75 23-27 113.

CLEVELAND (99)

Irving 9-16 3-5 23, Varejao 5-12 12-16 22, Gee 6-8 2-3 15, Miles 4-7 3-3 13, Thompson 5-8 0-1 10, Waiters 4-13 0-2 8, Gibson 2-3 0-0 6, Zeller 1-2 0-0 2, Walton 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 36-70 20-30 99.

3-Point Goals

—Toronto 12-24 (Anderson 5-7, Calderon 3-6, Lucas 2-3, Pietrus 1-3, Kleiza 0-3, Ross 1-1, DeRozan 0-1). Cleveland 7-16 (Irving 2-5, Miles 2-4, Gibson 2-3, Waiters 0-2, Gee 1-1, Walton 0-1). **Rebounds**—Toronto 36 (Valanciunas 7, Johnson 6, Anderson 6, DeRozan 5, Calderon 5, Davis 4, Kleiza 1, Lucas 1, Ross 1). Cleveland 33 (Varejao 10, Thompson 9, Gee 4, Miles 4, Irving 3, Zeller 2, Gibson 1). **Assists**—Toronto 25 (Calderon 6). Cleveland 19 (Irving 7). **Total Fouls**—Toronto 24, Cleveland 26.
A—13,233. T—2:18

AHL

Tuesday's result

Peoria 4 Hamilton 3 (SO)

Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern

Abbotsford at Chicago, 12 p.m.
St. John's at Adirondack, 7 p.m.
Springfield at Portland, 7 p.m.
Norfolk at Hershey, 7 p.m.
Albany at Bridgeport, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Lake Erie, 7 p.m.
Rochester at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
W-B/Scranton at Binghamton, 7:05 p.m.
Rockford at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Texas, 8:30 p.m.

SOCCER

ENGLAND

FA CUP

Tuesday's results

Barrow 1 Macclesfield Town 1
Brentford 4 Bradford City 2, extra time
Notts County 0 Rotherham United 3
Oxford United 2 Accrington Stanley 0

ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIP

Tuesday's result

Brighton & Hove Albion 2 Millwall 2

ENGLISH CONFERENCE

Tuesday's results

Alfreton Town 1 Cambridge United 1
Braintree Town 3 Forest Green Rovers 1

SCOTLAND

Tuesday's results

DIVISION ONE

Hamilton Academical vs. Dumbarton (ppd.)

DIVISION TWO

Albion Rovers F.C. 2 Forfar Athletic F.C. 3
East Fife 0 Stranraer F.C. 1

DIVISION THREE

The Rangers FC 3 Annan 0

TRANSACTIONS

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BOSTON RED SOX

— Agreed to terms with RHP Koji Uehara on a one-year contract.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX

— Named Julio Vinas manager and Britt Burns pitching coach of Birmingham (SL); Ryan Newman manager of Winston-Salem (Carolina); Tommy Thompson manager of Kannapolis (SAL); Pete Rose Jr. manager of Great Falls (Pioneer); Bobby Magallanes manager of Bristol (Appalachian); Doug Sisson minor league outfield/baserunning instructor; and Vance Law special assistant to player development.

CLEVELAND INDIANS

— Agreed to terms with 3B Mark Reynolds on a one-year contract.

HOUSTON ASTROS

— Designated RHP Mickey Storey for assignment.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS

— Agreed to terms with 2B Luis Rodriguez on a minor league contract.

MINNESOTA TWINS

— Agreed to terms with RHP Mike Pelfrey on a one-year contract.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS

— Traded OF Collin Cowgill to the N.Y. Mets for INF Jeffery Marte. Agreed to terms with SS Hiroyuki Nakajima on a two-year contract.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS

— Agreed to terms with RHP Ramon Ortiz and OF Ryan Langerhans on minor league contracts and RHP Roberto Hernandez on a one-year contract.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

LOS ANGELES DODGERS

— Named Pat Listach minor league infield coordinator; Todd Takayoshi assistant minor league hitting coordinator; Rick Knapp minor league pitching coordinator; John Shoemaker Camelback Ranch-Glendale coordinator of instruction; Franklin Stubbs hitting coach of Albuquerque (PCL); Jody Reed manager, Hector Berrios pitching coach and Orv Franchuk hitting coach of Chattanooga (SL); Carlos Subero manager and Johnny Washington hitting coach of Rancho Cucamonga (Cal); Razor Shines manager, Bill Simas pitching coach and Mike Eylvard hitting coach of Great Lakes (MWL); Esteban Lopez hitting coach of Ogden (Pioneer); and P.J. Forbes manager of the Arizona League Dodgers.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS

— Named Rick Tomlin minor league pitching coordinator; Bob Skube coach and Aaron Hoback trainer for Nashville (PCL); Steve Patera trainer of Huntsville (SL); Tony Diggs manager and Dwayne Hosey coach of Helena (Pioneer); Nestor Corredor manager and Greg Barajas trainer of the Arizona League Brewers.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

— Agreed to terms with LHP John Lannan on a one-year contract.

NBA

HOUSTON ROCKETS

— Recalled F/C Donatas Motiejunas from Rio Grande Valley (NBADL).

NFL

BUFFALO BILLS

— Signed OL Kraig Urbik to a contract extension. Placed LB Arthur Moats on injured reserve and WR Donald Jones on the reserve/non-football illness list. Signed WR Chris Hogan and LB Greg Lloyd from the practice squad.

CHICAGO BEARS

— Placed RB Michael Bush on injured reserve. Signed RB Kahili Bell.

CLEVELAND BROWNS

— Named Alec Scheiner president. Placed LB James-Michael Johnson and DB T.J. Ward on injured reserve. Signed DB Prince Miller and LB Adrian Moten. Signed DL Hall Davis from the practice squad.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

— Placed DE Andre Branch and RB Jordan Todman on injured reserve. Released WR Quan Cosby and FB Will Ta'ufu'ou. Signed WR Mike Brown, LB Brandon Marshall and TE Isaiah Stanback from the practice squad and OL Tommie Draheim and WR Brittan Golden to the practice squad.

NEW YORK GIANTS

— Re-signed OL Selvis Capers. Waived CB Terrence Frederick.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

— Released TE Evan Moore. Signed TE Sean McGrath from the practice squad.

CFL

TORONTO ARGONAUTS

— Released PK/P Noel Prefontaine.

NHL

WASHINGTON CAPITALS

— Reassigned F Stanislav Galiev and D Brett Flemming from Reading (ECHL) to Hershey (AHL).

American Hockey League

AHL

— Suspended Lake Erie LW Patrick Bordeleau three games.

CONNECTICUT WHALE

— Called up D Steven Delisle from Greenville (ECHL).

SPRINGFIELD FALCONS

— Recalled D Patrick Cullyity from Idaho (ECHL).

NFL

COLUMBUS CREW

— Re-signed M Danny O'Rourke to a one-year contract.

D.C. UNITED

— Released M Stephen King and D Michael Chabala.

FC DALLAS

— Signed F Wesley "Pipico" Silva.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	10	4	0	.714	506	315
N.Y. Jets	6	8	0	.429	255	320
Miami	6	8	0	.429	264	279
Buffalo	5	9	0	.357	306	402

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Houston	12	2	0	.857	394	280
Indianapolis	9	5	0	.643	309	358
Tennessee	5	9	0	.357	285	396
Jacksonville	2	12	0	.143	219	383

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Baltimore	9	5	0	.643	348	307
Cincinnati	8	6	0	.571	355	293
Pittsburgh	7	7	0	.500	302	291
Cleveland	5	9	0	.357	280	310

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Denver	11	3	0	.786	409	274
San Diego	5	9	0	.357	299	312
Oakland	4	10	0	.286	263	402
Kansas City	2	12	0	.143	195	367

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	8	6	0	.571	381	350
Dallas	8	6	0	.571	327	338
N.Y. Giants	8	6	0	.571	373	304
Philadelphia	4	10	0	.286	253	375

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Atlanta	12	2	0	.857	371	259
New Orleans	6	8	0	.429	389	379
Tampa Bay	6	8	0	.429	354	349
Carolina	5	9	0	.357	296	319

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	10	4	0	.714	344	292
Minnesota	8	6	0	.571	319	308
Chicago	8	6	0	.571	321	240
Detroit	4	10	0	.286	330	380

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-San Francisco	10	3	1	.750	357	218
Seattle	9	5	0	.643	350	219
St. Louis	6	7	1	.464	258	315
Arizona	5	9	0	.357	224	302

x — clinched playoff berth; y — clinched division.

WEEK 15

Monday's result

Tennessee 14 N.Y. Jets 10

Sunday's results

Washington 38 Cleveland 21
Miami 24 Jacksonville 3
Denver 34 Baltimore 17
Atlanta 34 N.Y. Giants 0
Minnesota 36 St. Louis 22
Houston 29 Indianapolis 17
Green Bay 21 Chicago 13
New Orleans 41 Tampa Bay 0
Seattle 50 Buffalo 17
Carolina 31 San Diego 7
Arizona 38 Detroit 10
Dallas 27 Pittsburgh 24
Oakland 15 Kansas City 0
San Francisco 41 New England 34

LATE MONDAY

Kickoff Returns	2-52	3-75
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	4-55
Comp-Att-Int	13-29-4	13-22-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	4-24	4-22
Punts	6-42-3	10-39-1
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	4-23	14-111
Time of Possession	30:16	29:44

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

—N.Y. Jets, Greene 13-68, McKnight 4-29, Powell 6-28, Tebow 3-15, Sanchez 4-6. Tennessee, C.Johnson 21-122, Locker 7-43, Q.Johnson 2-2.

PASSING

—N.Y. Jets, Sanchez 13-28-4-131, Tebow 0-1-0-0. Tennessee, Locker 13-22-0-149.

RECEIVING

—N.Y. Jets, Cumberland 4-53, Edwards 3-47, Powell 2-15, Greene 2-1, Kerley 1-11, Reuland 1-4. Tennessee, Washington 4-62, Wright 3-31, Preston 2-31, Stevens 2-16, Britt 1-7, Q.Johnson 1-2.

MISSSED FIELD GOALS

—Tennessee, Bironas 46 (BK).

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Civic hits refresh button



ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

5 DRIVE

Features

The new Honda Civic's feature list is long, so here's some highlights: Bluetooth for audio and device hook-up, heated front seats, read out and respond for text messages and navigation upgraded with voice recognition, plus a "three-view" rear camera. In fact, a rear-view camera is now standard on EX models.



New stylish features

2013 Honda Civic fast facts

- **Sales.** Canada's top selling car line
- **Engine.** 140 hp, 1.8 litre four-cylinder. Si Coupes and Sedans upgraded to 201 hp.
- **Location.** Most models built in Alliston, Ont.
- **Base price (incl. destination).** \$15,400

Style changes

The new model flaunts a degree of exterior style and interior finesse not quite evident on the 2012 Civic. In a mid-cycle refresh like this one, about all you're able to change on the outside are front and rear fascia, hood and trunk panels and the wheels. Honda has done that and all to great effect.

Design

The look is wider and lower — slightly more sporty and premium. It now sports exterior bits you've been seeing on higher-end models, like complex headlights, black mesh grille with chrome accents, integrated fog lights (on higher trim lines) and larger, more horizontal taillights that flow into the sides of the car.

Review. New model has learned from mistakes of 2012 Civic

This newly minted 2013 Honda Civic sedan is one unusual automobile. Not weird like it runs on goat cheese, or some other dairy product.

Unusual in that the refresh bestowed upon it for

2013 comes only one model year after it was completely reborn. About 18 months ago, that all-new and ninth-generation 2012 Honda Civic came out to mixed reviews — not so bad that it had any problem at all retaining its mantle as Canada's top-selling passenger car.

But Honda must have been clearly spooked about its initial reception and the subsequent and serious competitive

moves made by its competitors in this all-important compact car segment — Canada's largest. Toyota Corolla and Mazda3 have always battled Civic hard, but now there's a whole new and energetic crowd banging on the door (Chevrolet Cruze, Ford Focus, Hyundai Elantra, Dodge Dart, etc.)

"The days when the Civic was just a car for the first time buyer are gone," says

Quoted

"The days when the Civic was just a car for the first time buyer are gone."

Dave Gardner, vice-president of sales and marketing for Honda Canada

Dave Gardner, vice-president of sales and marketing for Honda Canada. "We're now

appealing to a significant number of customers who are downsizing from intermediate or larger vehicles."

On top of everything else it offers, it's quieter on the road thanks to new acoustic measures and the new suspension bits, which also reduce NVH. Good on Honda to make this move, and good on Civic. Your place on top of the Canadian sales charts will surely continue.



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Parts Department

Whether it's a Christmas gift, a novelty birthday gift or just something for yourself, here are some ideas for unique automotive-inspired presents.

WHEELBASE MEDIA



Lighten your load

Fumbling around in the dark while trying to find/remove the contents of your pickup's load bed is a thing of the past if you have installed an Automatic Cargo Light from 4zproducts. It automatically switches on when the tailgate is lowered. The least expensive version uses a single incandescent light, but for extra-bright illumination you can purchase either a single or dual light emitting diode (LED) four-foot-long strips that extend along the length of the box and can be attached without tools. Prices range from \$30 US to \$100 through shop.4zproducts.com.

This tops them all

Toting extra gear on top of your vehicle can be relatively easy and inexpensive with the Car Top Duffle Bag from Rightline Gear. This 91-by 40-by 32-centimetre waterproof unit can be strapped to the roof without needing to be secured to a rack, although that's likely not recommended for really heavy loads. The duffle bag also features a urethane coating that, claims Rightline, makes it 100 per cent waterproof. Along with all the necessary attachments for securing the bag to the doorframe, the Duffle Bag comes with adjustable over-the-shoulder carrying straps. The Car Top Duffle Bag has a suggested list price of \$70 US. For full info and a complete rundown of retailers, go to rightlinegear.com.



Take charge

When storing your vehicle's battery for a lengthy period, it would be helpful to know if and when it might require recharging. OptiMate's Charge Now Warning Flasher attaches to your battery and will alert you should its power level drop below 50 per cent. At that point, you can recharge the battery by connecting the Charge Now Flasher through the supplied connector to any other vehicle's 12-volt receptacle to bring the battery up to full charge. The Charge Now Flasher is available for sealed automotive batteries or for marine-type wet-cell batteries and sells for \$20 US from smarthchargers.com.



You gotta have pull

If you or someone you know just has to have the latest and greatest tools in his or her shop, the Easypuller from Las Vegas Tools should definitely be on the shopping list. This award-winning product is designed to remove virtually any stubborn fastener. That includes rusted and seized-up bolts screws, nails, cotter pins, clips, seals and so on. It will even work as a dent remover. The secret is the patentpending Easypuller's special locking pliers that clamp onto the fastener in question. They work in tandem with a sliding one-kilogram hammer that creates a powerful pulling force. The Easypuller sells for \$40 US from lasvegastool.com.



ALL IMAGES WHEELBASE

Like a tree? Ford attempting to grow a car from the roots up

Driving Force.

Automakers are experimenting with bio-materials for car parts and the green trend is picking up speed

JILL
MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Along with food, many farmers are growing car parts these days.

Not directly, of course, but several automakers are experimenting with plant materials, including Ford, which operates a Bio-Materials Lab at its Research and Advanced Engineering Center in Dearborn, Mich.

"We have been working for the last 12 years on replacing petroleum products with bio-materials," says Debbie Mielewski, technical leader for plastics research. "People originally laughed at

Quoted

"We're now working on recycled soy foam and we're having some success with that."

Debbie Mielewski, technical leader for plastic research at Ford.
On the new products they've been experimenting with.

us until oil hit \$100 a barrel, since there are 300 pounds (136 kg) of plastic in each vehicle."

The earliest work was on foam made with soybean oil. The first examples were too brittle, but researchers finally came up with a viable product made with 40 per cent plant oil. It was initially used for seats in the 2007 Mustang, and is now found in every vehicle made in North America. "It saves five million pounds of oil every year," Mielewski says. "We're now working on recycled soy foam, and we're having some success with

that."

Currently, the lab is experimenting with such things as rice hulls, coconut shells, and other agricultural waste. But it isn't enough just to add new materials to plastic, and researchers have to look at a wide range of issues, including how the composite handles extreme heat or cold, how strong it is, and if it can be produced on a large scale. The team even has to consider such things as whether people with plant allergies have any reaction to the finished plastic.

The seasonal nature of agriculture must also be considered, and there has to be a steady supply of the bio-material. Some crops also have to be rejected because industrial use would infringe on food production.

In addition to plant products, the lab also looks at new uses for recycled materials. It has had success with shredded soft drink bottles, which are turned into carpets and with denim

Of note

- **The old days.** Henry Ford experimented with soybean plastic in the 1930s, but it was prohibitively more expensive than plastic made from oil, which was cheap at the time.
- **Bed down.** Ford works with non-competitive industries, such as mattress manufacturers, to help them use more soybean foam.
- **Green car.** All of the fabric in the Ford Focus Electric is made from recycled materials.

waste from jean production, which is made into carpetbacking and insulation. The researchers are even considering paper money, which the U.S. Mint shreds and sends to landfills when it gets too worn, as an ingredient in composite plastic.



Ford is one of several car companies experimenting with bio-materials. HANDOUT

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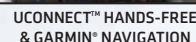
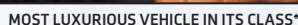
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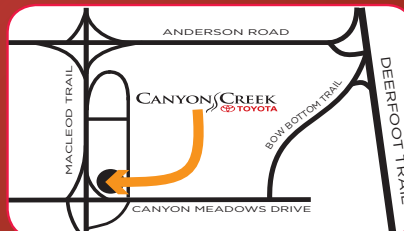
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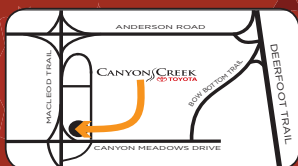
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Pop open a wheelie

The golden olden days. Hobby-grade slot cars continue their cult status with children and adults alike



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Christmas morning is always fun. But it can never be as fun as it was on those magical Christmas mornings, when you were in your prime toy-yearning years.

First you don't get the Santa thing. Then, Santa and Christmas morning are everything. Then you gradually get jaded by the whole thing and start getting up later and later on Christmas morning. The window is actually quite small for really getting into it, but when you're into it, you're into it hard.

And it was in that glorious window that Santa once dropped off for me the actual Eldon slot car racing set I feverishly desired.

Net result: best Christmas present ever.

I still have the two slot cars that came with the set — an original Ford Mustang Fastback and a Chevrolet Corvette Stingray Coupe.

Back then (the mid-to-late 1960s), slot car racing sets were one of the prime Christmas toys for boys.

"You'd go to an Eaton's store back then, and there would be

Vroom

"Fortunately there are still enough dads out there who had one, and who want to buy a set for their kids ... or say they are buying a set for their kids."

Ernie Mossetti, slot car retailer and aficionado
On the popularity of the classic toy

four or five tracks set up for kids to play and try," remembers Ernie Mossetti, who has been a slot car retailer since 1988, and a slot car aficionado virtually all his life. "I was born in 1956, and got my first slot car in 1964."

The slot car's reign on top

of the toy kingdom didn't last long. Mossetti says things were pretty much over by the late '60s. Slot car sets are now just another toy among thousands. But "hobby grade" slot cars continue their cult status with adult aficionados, and some young folks as well.

Mossetti currently operates two slot car related concerns — raceworldcanada.com and mr.slotcar.ca — the former's an online store and the latter a line of professional grade slot cars designed by Mossetti (he's an industrial designer by trade). He notes that sets from Germany's Carrera and Britain's Scalextric continue to dominate the current market.

Mossetti says kids don't get exposed to the slot car world like they used to — there is little advertising or promotion. And these days, you have to go to a hobby store or an online store to get your actual slot car stuff.

"Fortunately there are still enough dads out there who had one, and who want to buy a set for their kids ... Or say they are buying the set for their kids."

Ouch, I resemble that last remark.

When our son, Jared, was four, he got from Santa a starter Scalextric set, with an Indy 500 theme. In retrospect, he was too young for it. Whenever he and his buddies played with it, they would simply hold the controller throttle on full blast, all the time. The beautifully detailed Indy racers were flying and crashing all over the living room. As designated first responder, I was very busy retrieving the cars and setting them back gently on the track, only to see them fly off of the track on the next lap.

But I didn't mind. They moved onto other activities eventually. Then I would have the track all to myself.



Just another toy among thousands? Some car buffs beg to differ. HANDOUT



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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20
You can be as adventurous as you please now, knowing that nothing bad will come of it. Make use of the Sun's final few days in sympathetic Sagittarius to have fun. Forget about yesterday, it's today that matters.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21
Money may be a little tight at the moment but that is no reason to deny yourself the good things in life. On the contrary, you will feel better about yourself if you splash out a bit — but not too much.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21
Thought may be your natural medium but with love planet Venus moving through the relationship area of your chart you want to express yourself not only mentally but romantically too. Give the object of your affection your full attention.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23
If you need help, you must ask for it. No one will think any the less of you if you request assistance. On the contrary, they will admire your maturity. Neither success nor self-worth have anything to do with separation.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23
The more you have been working on serious things, the more you owe it to yourself to have some fun. Social activities, as well as an affair of the heart, will bring you a great deal of pleasure over the next 24 hours.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Today's rather unusual events will convince you that important objectives can only be reached if you are prepared to meet other people halfway. That applies not only to your allies but to your rivals too.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Most of the time your head rules your heart, but today the opposite will be true. You will allow your feelings to dictate what you say and do. Nothing bad will come of it. In fact, you will thoroughly enjoy yourself.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Calm down and stop taking what other people say so seriously. Yes, of course, some individuals can be a complete pain but if you let them upset you it means they have won. It's life — learn to laugh at it.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Take your pleasures where you find them and don't give a thought to what is going on around you. Is that irresponsible? Some people may think so but you have done your bit for world peace — now you want a piece of the action.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Most of the time you think and behave rationally but the planets warn that your feelings could get the better of you today. There is absolutely nothing wrong with that so long as they are positive and loving feelings.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Stick to what you do best and don't let others involve you in things you have next to no interest in. There is only so much that any one person can do and you'll do your bit better if it inspires you.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20
You will find yourself up against someone who speaks and acts a bit too aggressively today but you must not react in kind. Smile, talk softly and reasonably and let them see you are beyond their reach. You win. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword

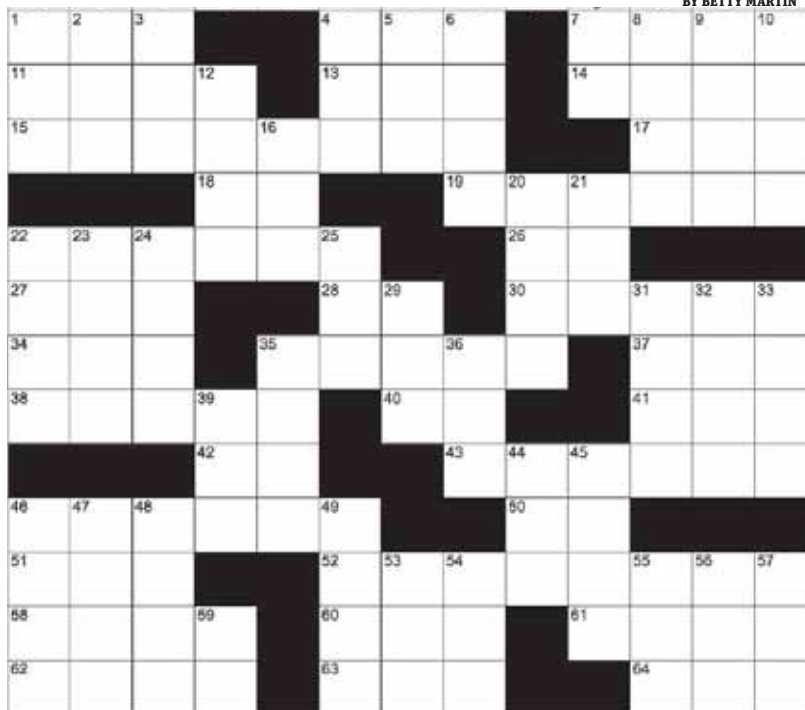
Across

1. Package request (abbr.)
4. Breakfast choice
7. Headliner
11. Extremely dry
13. Seminary subj.
14. Skin opening
15. Renounce
17. "Far out!"
18. Trucker's radio, for short
19. Occasions
22. Rate
26. Little Rock st.
27. Victory sign
28. Exclamation of surprise
30. At no time
34. Writer Levin
35. Whacks, as a housefly
37. Silkworm
38. Perry Mason's secretary
40. Musical note
41. Toss out
42. Knight of Grey's Anatomy
43. Busy — (3 words)
46. Archie Bunker's offspring
50. — the World Turns
51. Cut back
52. Careless
58. General vicinity
60. Battery sz.
61. Church section
62. Car mishap
63. Skillet
64. Pouch

Down

1. Canadian Auto Association
2. Sphere
3. "I Know What You — Last Summer"
4. Long, long time
5. — Smart
6. Jane Lynch series
7. She played Emily Hartley on The Bob Newhart Show (init.)

BY BETTY MARTIN



8. Severed

9. I smell — (2 words)
10. Lipstick colours
12. Recipe direction
16. Survivor network
20. Moving vehicles
21. Sooner than, poetically
22. Eager
23. Dried
24. Circus Barker

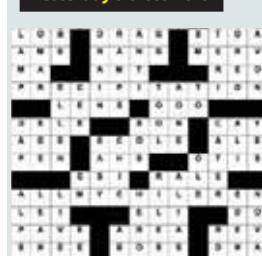
25. Farm mother

29. Sandwich filler
31. Part of speech
32. A great lake
33. Take the subway
35. Indian dress
36. — Maria (coffee liqueur)
39. Common paper sz.
44. Tree fluid
45. Business abbr.

46. Pleased

47. Knowledge
48. — Mike with Mike Bullard
49. Memo abbr.
53. Half a Teletubbie
54. McShane or Ziering
55. The Hour — 22 Minutes
56. Eggs
57. Winter mo.
59. One Day — a Time

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers
metronews.ca/
answers.

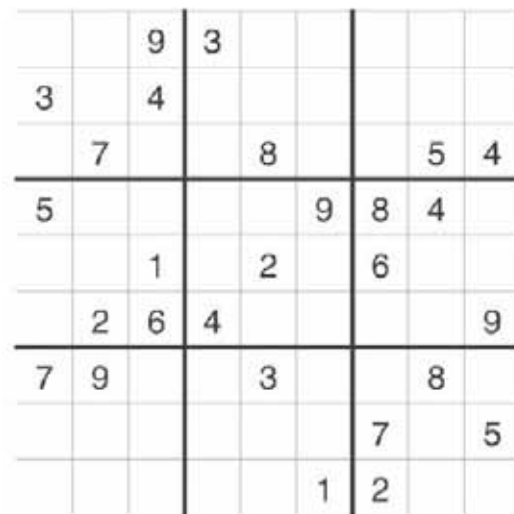


Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Weather

TODAY



MAX: -10°
MIN: -9°

THURSDAY



MAX: -10°
MIN: -16°

FRIDAY



MAX: -3°
MIN: -18°



ANDREW SCHULTZ
METEOROLOGIST

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GOODNEWSTODAY.CA

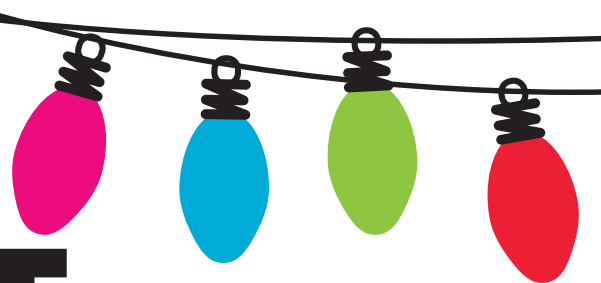
Sharability



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hard

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PURE BONUS CODE: 085301

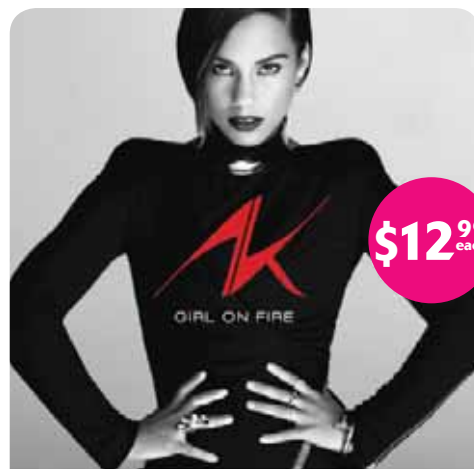


KELLY CLARKSON - GREATEST HITS - CHAPTER ONE

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Southpointe Shopping Centre
Sunridge Mall
Sunridge Mall – Kiosk
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Northgate Centre – Kiosk
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Lethbridge SmartCentres
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Lloyd Mall

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